

Radiation test shock for Kiev Britons

British students being evacuated from Moscow after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster have abnormally high levels of radiation on their clothes

Tass now says that 18 Soviet citizens are in "a serious condition" after the disaster, but claimed that no foreign citizens had been affected

The British Embassy in Warsaw is making arrangements to evacuate the pregnant wives and young children of embassy staff

A call for an international investigation into the disaster was made last night by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Fears about the long-term consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster increased last night when nearly 100 British students being evacuated from Moscow were discovered in their first screening by a British expert to have higher than normal radiation levels on their clothing.

Mr John Burley, the British Airways station manager, told *The Times* that all the students had been asked to change into fresh overalls and trackuits flown in from London as a precautionary measure.

"The readings were much higher than we had expected," he said. "Our concern was to take the maximum sensible precautions and get them out."

All of the students had earlier been screened with a Geiger counter at a Soviet clinic in Moscow, and no official Soviet concern had been expressed publicly about the levels of radiation discovered.

The students were all living in Kiev or Minsk, two large Soviet cities close to the site of Friday's incident, and diplomatic sources said last night that the more than 3 million Soviet residents of the cities can be expected to have suffered the same radiation levels.

After the airport screening, many of the students were reported by Western sources to have been "concerned and upset" at the findings, although many also expressed

relief that they had at last been able to get reliable information about the effects of the radiation leak after the strict Soviet clampdown on details.

The sources said that the Soviet authorities had deliberately delayed the take-off of the plane carrying out the evacuation to enable Soviet television to film interviews with left-wing students sympathetic to the Kremlin's handling of the disaster.

The Boeing 757 sent to carry out last night's evacuation was staffed with a British Airways doctor who is expert in radiation problems and a nurse.

Mr Burley said last night that the students had been allowed to carry the affected clothing with them in special plastic bags, and that further tests would be carried out by British experts in London.

Mr Robert Walker, aged 22, a student from the Liverpool Polytechnic, told *The Times* that he had known nothing about Friday's disaster until three days later. "The Russians have given me a certificate saying that I am 'effectively healthy', but I have no idea what that means."

Other British and foreign students in Moscow are growing increasingly concerned about their future, and some

are already understood to have left.

Miss Helen Donlan from the Central London Polytechnic said last night: "The first I knew that anything was seriously wrong was when my mother rang me from England in the middle of the night on Tuesday."

Miss Donlan, aged 22, said that she and more than 30 other British students in Moscow had been given no adequate guidance about health precautions.

British and other members of Moscow's 8,500-strong foreign community have been given warnings by their respective embassies, including an instruction to touch no milk products for 30 days.

It was learned last night that a team of US experts is expected soon to conduct more rigorous radiation tests.

A number of the foreigners have come under pressure from relatives to leave the Soviet Union, but by last night the great majority appeared willing to remain until they get more detailed guidance, especially about pregnant women and young children.

Tass yesterday issued a brief, 10-line statement from the Council of Ministers claiming that no foreign citizens had been affected by the disaster, but that 18 of its own citizens were now in "a serious condition". The Government had earlier said that only two people had died and 197 were in hospital after the nuclear leak.



Mrs Jennifer Guinness on board the British Airways 1 in Plymouth yesterday before sailing in the *Ross* Ireland Race. Report, page 2

Education warning by Labour

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

A Labour government will abolish fee-paying in education over the lifetime of a parliament, Mr Giles Radice, the party's education spokesman, said yesterday during the run-up to the Ryed by-election, where education is proving to be a principal campaign issue.

Mr Radice's statement is the clearest commitment so far on the timing of Labour's plans for the future of private education. He spelt out Labour's plans to phase out fee-paying the day after a debate involving the three candidates attracted one of the biggest public meeting audiences of the contest.

Mr Radice said Labour would initially get rid of the assisted places scheme and abolish charitable status and all the other tax advantages enjoyed by private schools. Local authorities would be given powers to decide on the future of individual public schools in their areas.

He stressed that the complete abolition of fee-paying was a long term aim, but pressed on the timing said it would be done over the lifetime of a parliament.

Mr Radice said: "Private education is extremely unfair and divisive - it is one of the most divisive factors in education."

Mrs Shirley Haines, the Labour candidate, said that had it not been for the Libyan factor, education would have been "streets ahead" as the main issue of the by-election.

Moscow message on arms

By Nicholas Ashford
Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Thatcher is to discuss with President Reagan the contents of a new message on arms control she has just received from Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader. She will raise the matter when she meets the President at the seven-nation summit in Tokyo next week.

British officials yesterday refused to discuss the contents of the letter, which was delivered to the Prime Minister by Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the new Soviet Ambassador, on Wednesday night. They would only say that it would receive a "serious response".

However, it was clear that they regarded the letter's tone as constructive, particularly as it placed "firmly on the Anglo-Soviet timetable" a visit to Britain later this year by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Whitehall sources said the Kremlin asked to deliver the message to Mrs Thatcher before she left for Tokyo. This was so that its contents could be discussed with the other summit leaders during their sessions on arms control and East-West relations.

The letter is not believed to contain any new proposals for reducing nuclear weapons, but instead focusses more broadly on the need to improve East-West relations.

It is possible the Prime Minister will send a reply to Mr Gorbachev with Lord Whitelaw, who is due to lead a parliamentary delegation to the Soviet Union on May 23.

Man arrested in bomb alert at Dutch airport

Amsterdam (AP) - Dutch police yesterday arrested a man at Schiphol airport here for possession of suspected explosives and detonators.

Mr Rik Hirs, a police spokesman, refused to name the man but said he carried a Japanese passport stating he was 33 and a resident of Athens.

The airport's south arrival hall was evacuated for 90 minutes while an Army bomb disposal squad removed the suspect package.

The devices were found in a tin, traced to the suspect.

What appeared to be detonators were found in a radio carried by the suspect.

Mr Hirs said it was not known whether the man arrived at the airport on a flight because no airline ticket had been found on him. There was also no baggage check on the tin.

He said security checks had been stepped up at the airport after police received information.

Jail riot talks as officers call off action

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison officers leaders called off their industrial action yesterday after a night of widespread rioting that wrecked one jail and left chaos and destruction in many more. They are to meet Home Office officials today for talks about talks.

Military camps are being prepared in case they are needed to house prisoners, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, told the House of Commons. The national information centre at Scotland Yard has been opened by Mr James Anderton, acting president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, to collate and disseminate information about police involvement in the dispute.

Mr Hurd blamed the industrial action by the officers for increasing the prospect of trouble and reducing the resources available to deal with it. "I believe that not only the public but many members of the prison service, including many members of the Prison Officers Association, will have been appalled by the events of the last 24 hours."

But the association said that the events of the past 24 hours had "perfectly illustrated the force and validity" of its case. "Prisons are extremely dangerous places and our members are deserving of the very highest degree of protection, regard-

less of the financial implications."

The dispute is about manning levels and the extent to which they should be negotiable. Prison officers say that their safety is imperilled if too few are on duty. Part of their action was a ban on overtime, which shows dramatically how much the system depends on it.

"Unlike the Prison Department, we are very conscious of our responsibilities

Night of violence 16
Photographs 16

to our members and their physical safety. Equally, we are extremely concerned for the safety of the public and the safety of the inmates."

The association had planned to operate the overtime ban and other sanctions until Tuesday, but thinks it has made its point and that it is time to restart talks.

Mr Colin Steel, association's national chairman, said last night that the association was anxious to get about 100 suspended members unconditionally reinstated.

Mr Hurd said that substantive negotiations could not be started until the threat of industrial action had been removed. He had invited the association's national executive to talks at the Home Office.

Referring to the rioting, he said there would need to be an inquiry into "these events". The form and scope would have to be compatible with any police investigations into the alleged offences.

The riots produced a clash in the Commons between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock, who said that unless the Government showed a more rational attitude than so far, industrial action would come about simply because of the pressure in the prisons.

Mrs Thatcher, who spoke Continued on page 16, col 8

Duchess thanks French in will

From Susan MacDonald
Paris

The Pastern Institute will be the Duchess of Windsor's main beneficiary, it was announced in Paris yesterday by the Duchess's lawyer and old friend, Maître Suzanne Blum, who announced details of the will.

Besides the Pastern Institute, Maître Blum announced bequests for associations, charities and museums in France and England.

French museums will receive her collection of furniture, ornaments and porcelain. There is also a long list of individual bequests which includes members of the Royal Family.

Maître Blum said the fact that French institutions were to receive the major part of the Duchess's wealth should be interpreted as a sign of her gratitude to the French Government for its kindness to the Windsors since 1936.

Maître Blum said the will consisted of two documents, one dated 1972 and the other 1973. It is the latter document which contains the list of individual bequests.

The Duchess has bequeathed her collection of 18th-century furniture to the Louvre and to the Chateau de Versailles, and her porcelain collection to the Sévres museum.

Other charities and institutions mentioned include: the Royal National Lifeboat Institution; The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association; the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association; the Pestalozzi Village; Trogen (Switzerland) Association; Fondation Claude Pompidou pour les Handicapés; Fondation Anne de Gaulle; and the Institut de Cancérologie Immunogénétique.

Oslo decision

Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norway's Labour Party leader, is to try to form a government after the collapse of the conservative coalition of Mr Kaare Willoch.

£3.2bn wiped off value of shares

By Richard Lander

The Stock Exchange took its own age-old advice to investors - "sell in May and go away" - with pin-point timing yesterday.

Around £3.2 billion was wiped off the value of leading shares in reaction to a record slump on Wall Street and a £357 million rights issue from the Prudential, Britain's biggest life insurance group. Both leading market indices, the *Financial Times* 30-share and

the FT-Stock Exchange 100, lost more than 20 points.

Stockjobbers, who had been expecting the Prudential issue, marked down share prices as soon as the market opened. Attempts at a rally soon ran out of steam but most shares closed above their worst. Gilt also showed losses of up to 50p.

The slump on Wall Street reflected anxieties over the strength of the American

economy and news that the American trade deficit had widened further to \$14.5 billion in March.

Prudential said it was raising the money in its rights issue to take advantage of the imminent deregulation of financial markets and the wide-ranging changes which will take place on the Stock Exchange this year.

Shares lose £3.2bn, page 17

Tomorrow

Where food is a serious business

Clement Freud goes behind the scenes at *The Times* restaurant of the year



Portfolio Gold

● The daily *Times* Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000 was won outright yesterday - details, page 3.
● Today there is another £4,000 to be won. On Saturday the weekly prize will be £8,000.
● Portfolio Gold list, page 25; rules and how to play, information service, page 16.

Begum held

Begum Khaleida Zia, leader of the boycott campaign against next week's Bangladesh general election, has been arrested and held outside Dhaka, according to opposition leaders. Earlier report, page 6

Nurses' stress

Stress is costing nurses and the NHS dear, a leading specialist said when launching a study on nurse managers. Page 2

On this day

The news of Adolf Hitler's suicide in his Berlin bunker was reported in *The Times* on May 2, 1945. Page 13

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1st & 2nd	24	Weather	12
1st & 2nd	24	Weather	12

Global inquiry sought

By Richard Evans
Lobby Reporter

Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, last night called for an international investigation into the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

Speaking at the Ryed by-election, he said the inquiry, involving representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency, should look into the design of the plant, the operating conditions and the circumstances of the accident.

"In this way the international community would learn valuable lessons which would benefit us all," Mr Baker said. "I hope that Russia will understand and accept that the price to be paid for membership of the international community, and for the trust of that community, is an openness and a readiness to share information."

"Unhappily this is a price which Russia has so far shown herself unwilling to pay."

Mrs Thatcher left London for the Tokyo economic summit last night, determined to bring international pressure to bear on Russia for its secretive approach to the leak.

Earlier, the Prime Minister told the Commons: "These matters go way beyond the borders of any country and must be dealt with on a global scale."

The Cabinet discussed the leak in an 80 minute meeting yesterday. Senior ministers believe Russian reticence in providing basic information about the leak could hinder arms controls talks.

Britons to leave Warsaw

By Nicholas Ashford
Diplomatic Correspondent

The British embassy in Warsaw yesterday began making arrangements to evacuate the pregnant wives and young children of embassy staff because of the high radiation levels recorded in the Polish capital.

The Foreign Office said it had decided to take this precaution after several embassy wives expressed concern about the health risks posed by the high radiation levels resulting from the Chernobyl disaster.

British companies operating in Poland also have been advised to evacuate pregnant wives and young children.

Because of the continuing failure of the Polish and Soviet authorities to provide detailed information about radiation levels, the Foreign Office has advised Britons to avoid travelling to the western Soviet Union and north-eastern Poland, including Moscow and Warsaw.

But on the basis of reliable monitoring of radiation levels in Helsinki by the Finnish authorities, it is now considered safe to travel to Leningrad.

Radiation levels in Moscow are being directly monitored by technicians at the British embassy and it is expected they will soon give the all-clear for the Soviet capital.

Britain is still awaiting answers to a number of technical questions about the disaster which Sir Bryan Cartledge, the British ambassador, submitted to the Soviet authorities earlier this week.

A Victorian melodrama at 'The Observer'

By Richard Dowden

Readers of *The Observer* newspaper this weekend will be denied the chance to learn a little more about an obscure Victorian eccentric and writer, Mr Augustus Hare, by order of a printing union, the National Graphical Association.

The print workers are understood to have refused to produce the newspaper if the editor tries to print the article, written by Mr Bernard Levin, who also writes for *The Times*. It was learned yesterday that *The Observer's* editor, Mr Donald Treford, has succumbed to the union's pressure and withdrawn the article, a review of a book about Mr

Hare. His action was approved by the paper's journalists.

Mr Treford said yesterday: "Bernard is an old friend and I'm very sorry that the increasing bitterness of the Wapping dispute has obliged us to withdraw his excellent review from *The Observer*". He was not available for further comment.

However, *The Observer's* literary editor, Mr Terence Kilpatrick, called the decision "very depressing and regrettable - and slightly craven". He added: "I do understand that feelings are running pretty high over Wapping and I suppose it would be said if it were over into *The Observer*". Mr Levin believes that by



Hare: Victorian eccentric

not publishing the review *The Observer* has broken its contract which binds it to publishing its regular reviews unless

they are libellous. He said yesterday he had not decided whether to continue reviewing for the paper.

"It is not damaging me", he said. "It is damaging his own newspaper and weakening his own position for the next time. It's like Danegeld: if you give in once they'll want more next time."

The imperial father of the NGA chapel (office branch) at *The Observer*, Mr Roy Dowsett, was not available for comment last night but Mr Steve Vines, the father of the National Union of Journalists chapel said they had been consulted and that their view

was that the editor had made the right decision in the interests of publication.

The Observer has printed two articles by Mr Levin since the Wapping dispute began and although there have been grumblings from print workers, there has not been a formal protest until now. Mr Levin's review this week was to have been of a biography of a Victorian travel writer called Augustus Hare who catalogued the psychological horrors visited upon him in his upbringing. "He was the victim of the most appalling hypocrisy and narrow-mindedness of a 19th century religious upbringing", said Mr Levin.



Quality in an age of change.

Local council elections

Substantial Labour gains forecast in London poll

By Hugh Clayton

The Labour Party can expect a "very substantial swing" in its favour in next week's London council elections, according to a Harris poll conducted for yesterday's edition of *London Weekend Television's The London Programme*.

The poll, of more than 1,000 Londoners who were interviewed late last week, suggested that Labour would take control of seven more London boroughs, including Wandsworth, long celebrated by ministers and reviled by trade unions.

The poll supported claims made more than a year ago by

VOTING IN LONDON

ACTUAL VOTE 1982 (%)		
Con	Lab	All
43	31	25

HARRIS POLL 1986 (%)		
Con	Lab	All
35	45	19

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, then leader of the Greater London Council, that abolition of the authority would rebound on ministers in the form of massive Labour gains in the coming borough elections. The GLC was scrapped a month ago, in spite of a succession of opinion polls suggesting that most voters in the capital

opposed the manner of its going.

If the results of the Harris poll are reflected in next Thursday's results, Labour will probably emerge in control of 19 London boroughs, with the Conservatives holding 11. Richmond would probably remain the only London council to be held by the Alliance.

Some of the Labour gains would be in hung boroughs like Hammersmith and Fulham and Brent.

Such sweeping gains would also give Labour control of new post-GLC boards, such as the fire and waste disposal authority, which are run by

councillors elected by majority members of the borough authorities.

Although more than half of the voters interviewed by Harris thought that the Labour Party was too left-wing in London, almost a third said that abolition of the GLC had made them less likely to vote Conservative.

More than a third said they were less likely to vote Conservative because the Government had allowed the use of British bases in the United States Air Force raid on Libya last month. Barely more than a tenth said that the Libya issue would make them more likely to vote Conservative.

Labour promises seen as 'absurd'

By George Hill

An end to streaming and banding in local schools, a ban on sexist calendars in council workplaces and a commitment to buy free-range eggs are among the promises made in an 80-page local Labour party "manifesto" for next week's council elections in the London borough of Ealing.

Labour, which has high hopes of regaining control in the Tory-held borough, promises to end all subsidies to private schools in the borough, except those for children with disabilities or other special needs, and to give pupils over sixteen the right to inspect their school records and decide if and when they can be shown to third parties.

Rates in the borough would be doubled very quickly if the policies in the document were put into effect, a local Tory MP claimed last night. Mr Harry Greenway, member for Ealing North, said that the cost of implementation would be enormous.

"The document is a treasure-house of absurdities, but it is also dangerous stuff. It will cause moral outrage among the electors, and its proposals would lead to a severe loss of jobs."

The manifesto diverges from official Labour policy at several points, and its call for borough-level operational control of the police in London will be an embarrassment to the national party in its efforts to emphasize its good relations with the police.

"A Labour council will oppose the deployment of the Special Patrol Group or similar units in either anti-crime or public order roles in the borough," the document says.

The local Labour party promises "the removal of discriminatory attitudes and practices including towards lesbian and gay students and staff" in "all educational establishments".

In addition "a positive welcome will be extended to foster parents and adopters who are lesbian or gay or who are single or working women".

Labour will end Ealing's privatized street cleaning and school meals services "at the earliest opportunity", and campaign to gain control of the Manpower Services Commission's functions in the borough, the manifesto says. It proposes to encourage and fund "community enterprises", not primarily for profit, but stipulates that these must impose "full union conditions".

In a three-page section on animal welfare, the local party promises an end to the selling of cats and dogs in shops, and to the sale of horses in Southall market. It proposes to set up a Borough Pet Watch Scheme to combat the theft of cats.

The Conservatives have 34 seats on the council and Labour 30, with three Alliance members and three independents.

Bankers wooed by bus in Liverpool

By Peter Davenport

Liverpool's leaders took to the buses yesterday with the dual aim of persuading voters in next week's council elections to keep them in power, and to convince leading financial institutions to invest more money in the city.

One coach contained four council members facing expulsion by the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party for their support of Mr Derek Hatton, deputy leader of the council. They spent two hours touring new housing schemes canvassing support for the policies which took the council into confrontation with the Government last year.

In the second coach Mr Tony Byrne, the council's finance chairman, was trying to present a new image of Liverpool to the representatives of 40 British and foreign banks and building societies on a three-hour tour of new housing estates, leisure centres and environmental programmes, intended to show the financiers how Liverpool was spending its money.

Among those in the coach were officials of Phillips and Drew, the City stockbroking firm that organized the last-minute, £30 million deal with the Swiss bank, UBS, which rescued Liverpool from the brink of insolvency last year. Representatives of the bank were also present.

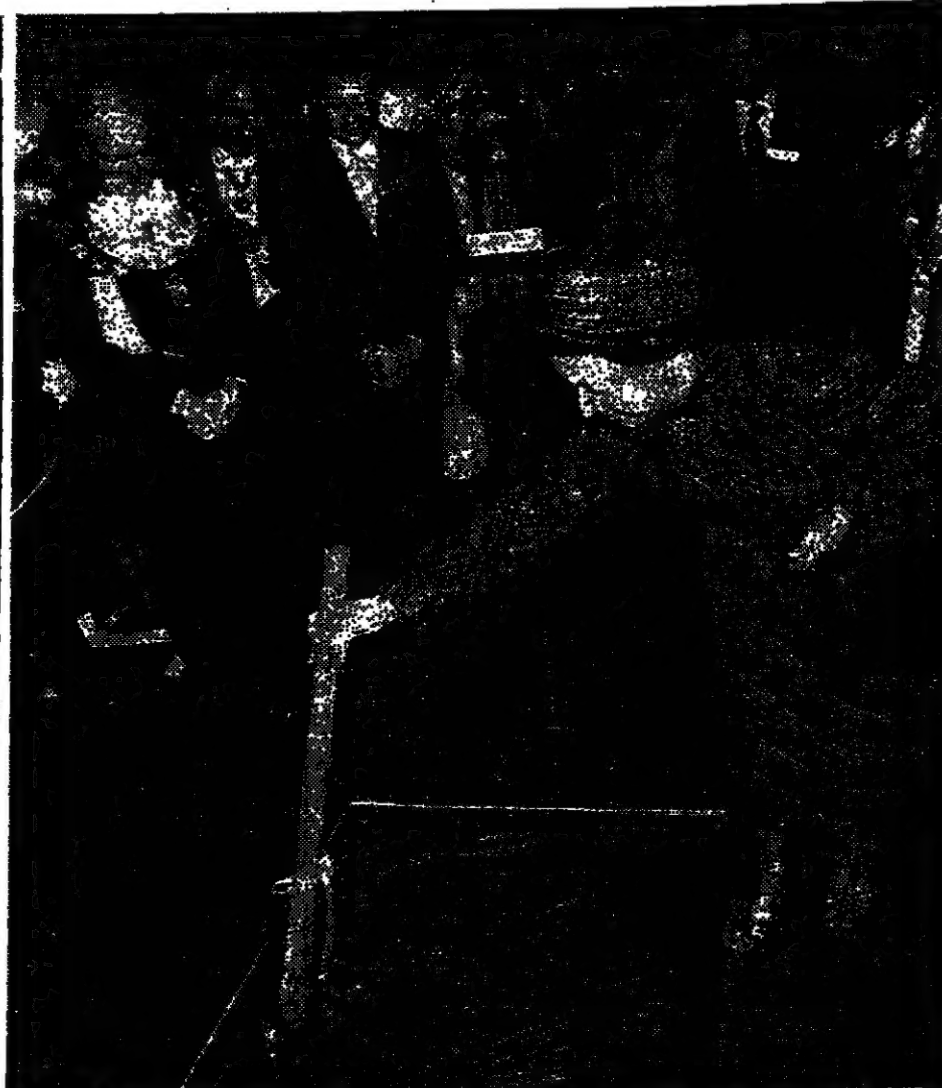
They toured nine of the council's 17 priority areas

where £160 million is being spent. Later Mr Byrne said: "We have the land, the buildings in the city have the expertise and the banks and building societies have the money. We want to get them together and we hope we have succeeded. Investment will take place in this city over the next 12 months."

Yesterday Mr Peter Morley, a director of Phillips and Drew, estimated that Liverpool required a further £500 million of private money to finance its planned scheme. The question was whether the city could afford to service the debt. He did not think that the climate for such large investments was right. "You cannot fail to be impressed by the dramatic problems here, and there is genuine need for a huge investment to put the fabric back where it should be," Mr Morley said. "We want to do something that cuts through the political rhetoric. The council can help by not allowing themselves to be seen by the public and city investors as extreme."

He did not believe the outcome of next week's elections would influence decisions on investment in Liverpool.

Mr Byrne denied that the tour had been organized to influence next week's elections. Thirty-four of the 99 council seats are being contested, and Labour leaders insist that they are confident of retaining power.



Princess Margaret laying a commemorative plaque at the junction of Bond Street and Clifford Street yesterday to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Westminster City Council and the 300th birthday of Bond Street (Photograph: John Voss).

Child care law reform hedged

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government announced yesterday that it would publish proposals for a comprehensive review of child care law in the autumn but failed to commit itself to legislation in the next parliamentary session.

The statement, from Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, will be a blow to the many organizations who have been anxiously awaiting a firm Government pledge of a Bill in the autumn after the full-scale review on child care law by the Department of Health and Social Security.

There were nearly 200 responses to the report on the child care law review, published last October, and most of the proposals received wide support, he said yesterday.

"The Government will now draw up its proposals for child care law in England and Wales, and for day care, and publish those in the autumn as a basis for legislation."

Such legislation will be introduced "as soon as parliamentary time can be found".

Costs are likely to be cited as an obstacle. Mr Fowler said that the estimate of implementing the child care report, supplied by a Government and local authority association officers' working party, was £4.25 million; just under £2 million would fall directly on local authorities and the rest on the courts and legal aid bill.

Without a specific commitment to a Bill or White Paper, it is thought likely that legislative proposals will be in no firmer form than a consultative paper. But Mr Fowler did indicate that a reform of child care law should not wait for the introduction of a family court, as some had suggested. The creation of a family court is thought unlikely within five years.

There was an advantage in "not delaying desirable improvements in child care law pending the possible introduction of a family court".

Miss Deborah Cullen, secretary to the legal group of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, said they were disappointed with Mr Fowler's statement and had hoped for a firmer pledge. But if the Government came forward with a White Paper that provided the chance for consultation and comment on defects of the report, such as its exclusion of adoption, that was something positive.

The Children's Legal Centre also expressed disappointment. Miss Jenny Kuper, a solicitor, said there had been widespread consultation and it was hard to see what need there was for more. "What we want now are specific recommendations."

Any change would cost money, but no more so than the present system under which children were unnecessarily placed in care, she said.

'Secretive JPs undermine law'

Wales where magistrates remained anonymous.

He said the practice was in breach of guidelines laid down by the Magistrates' Association and had led to complaints by the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body.

Mr Robertson said the practice of keeping magistrates' names secret at Feltham came to light at the end of a child-sex case last year.

Four adults were each fined £400 for acts of indecency with a nine-month-old baby in a bath and the chairman of the bench ordered a police inquiry into alleged breaches by national newspapers of orders banning reporting which would identify the child.

When a reporter asked the court clerk for the magistrates' names he was told that it was not the practice of the bench to reveal the identity of magistrates sitting in court.

Mr Leigh is bringing the case over the refusal of magistrates at Feltham in Suffolk, to allow themselves to be identified in court.

But Mr Robertson, told Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Russell and Mr Justice Mann that there were at least 10 courts in England and

Wales where magistrates remained anonymous.

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Mr Leigh is bringing the case because he, so, was refused the magistrates' name when he wanted to write an article about the press coverage of the sex case.

The hearing continues.

Victim of kidnap in record bid

Ms Jennifer Guinness, shrouded off the after-effects of her kidnap ordeal, sailed from Plymouth yesterday at the start of a record attempt through some of Europe's fiercest seas.

Ms Guinness, aged 48, joined Robin Knox-Johnston to help sail his 60-foot catamaran, British Airways 1, across the Irish Sea in preparation for the weekend attempt on the record for sailing around Ireland.

"I couldn't think of a better way to relax. I'm still recovering from the kidnap and this will help enormously. It's absolutely marvellous to be here, away from the telephone," she said.

Ms Guinness said that she would be making a final decision on whether to stay with the boat for the record attempt, although it was almost certain she would be on board, news which pleased Mr Knox-Johnston.

The present record stands at 88 hours, and Ms Guinness said that the crew were hopeful of beating it, given the right wind conditions.

'Guinea pig' PoWs see MPs

A delegation of British former prisoners of war yesterday met MPs at the House of Commons in its campaign to get compensation from the Japanese government for being used as "human guinea pigs".

The 26 surviving PoWs have been fighting an eight-month campaign for "justice, recognition and compensation," their spokesman, Mr Arthur Christie, aged 65, said.

"We are not going to give up our fight for compensation from the Japanese government," Mr Christie told Mr David Wigley, the Welsh Nationalist MP for Carmarthen, and Mr Peter Rost, Conservative member for Erewash, Derbyshire.

Mr Christie and three other PoWs yesterday presented new evidence, gleaned from a diary of their internment at the Mukden POW camp in Manchuria during 1942 to 1944, which they claim shows they were experimented upon by Japanese researchers from Unit 731, a notorious germ warfare laboratory.

He is being held on a charge that on or between July 1980 and December 1982 he possessed cannabis with intent to supply.

It is alleged that he fraudulently obtained £12 million from the National Bank of Chicago.

Smuggling charge

A Guernsey company director was remanded in custody yesterday in connection with a plot to smuggle cannabis worth \$80 million (about £53 million) into the United States.

Mr Anthony Warden, aged 41, head of the Warden group of companies, was remanded for a week after being refused

Council charges for bomb search

By Tim Jones

A Labour-controlled council was condemned as irresponsible yesterday for its decision to charge police £165 for making a security check at a hall where Mrs Margaret Thatcher is to address the annual conference of Welsh Conservatives.

Mr Peter Hubbard-Miles, Conservative MP for Bridgend, said: "It is truly amazing that after the Brighton bombing and with threats of Libyan terrorists, that councillors should try to deter the police from carrying out their duty to protect the public."

The decision to charge the police for searching the Grand Pavilion at Portcawl, South Glamorgan, was taken by Labour members of Ogwr Borough Council who voted down moves to discuss the issue and approved the recommendation of a sub-committee.

The council had been asked by Mr Haydn Davies, Assistant Chief Constable of South Wales, to make the council-owned Pavilion available the day before the conference opens on June 20 so that his men could carry out "necessary policing arrangements."

Mr Hubbard-Miles, who is also a member of the council, said that as the hall was not booked the day before the conference, the council would not have lost any money.

"This was pure spite by left-wingers, and security should have nothing to do with politics."

Mr Vivian Thomas, leader of the Labour group on the council, said: "We don't see why the cost should fall onto the ratepayers when we already have had to make cuts in leisure services because of the Government's policies."

"In any event, our decision had nothing to do with politics. The Pavilion wasn't booked, but we could have had someone asking to hire it and lost money. That is why we decided to charge the full hiring fee."

Mr Edward Thurgood, Conservative Central Office agent for Wales, who is responsible for organizing the conference, said: "The police explained it was not possible to pay the money out of public funds. I told them I could not put the conference at risk and agreed we would pay the bill."

"I find the council's action amazing, especially in view of the publicity the conference will bring to the resort."

Brief respite for Gevor tin mines

Cornwall County Council has offered short-term assistance of £40,000 towards care and maintenance of the Gevor tin mines for two weeks. After the company met Department of Trade and Industry officials yesterday, an offer of a like amount has been received from the Government.

However, at the meeting the DTI refused to pay £120,000 grant for expenditure to September 30 last year on the sub-sidence shaft project.

The DTI's refusal, on the grounds that viability of the project has subsequently been called into question, has exacerbated the company's deteriorating cash position and brought forward the point at which the board will have to declare the majority of the workforce redundant.

Chicago flight aids tourism

Non-stop daily services between Manchester and Chicago were started yesterday by American Airlines, which flew in 71 passengers.

In spite of reports of US tourists cancelling holidays to Europe, Mr Mark Skaggs, for the airline, said it had detected no drop in business.

Correction

The crash of the British ship R101 in 1930 caused 47 deaths, not 29 as stated on April 24.

Author: The Times newspaper
 Canada: \$2.75
 Denmark: 12.00
 France: 12.00
 Germany: 12.00
 Greece: 12.00
 Hong Kong: 12.00
 India: 12.00
 Italy: 12.00
 Japan: 12.00
 New Zealand: 12.00
 Norway: 12.00
 Sweden: 12.00
 Switzerland: 12.00
 Taiwan: 12.00
 USA: \$1.75
 Yugoslavia: 12.00

Lloyds Bank Cashflow Account Interest Rate.

With effect from Tuesday, 6 May 1986, the Cashflow Borrowing Rate will be reduced by 1.5 per cent to 20.5 per cent per annum, which is an effective annual rate of interest of 22.1 per cent.



Lloyds Bank

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Rosyth to get £220m base for submarines

The Royal Navy is to spend £220 million on building new facilities at the royal dockyard at Rosyth, on the Firth of Forth, for refitting nuclear submarines. The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that it will be the largest single construction project ever undertaken by the Navy.

The new facility, which will include two covered dry docks, will be designed to provide refitting and refuelling facilities for all Britain's submarines, including the new Trident missile vessels, the first of which was ordered on Wednesday from Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering of Barrow-in-Furness, at a cost of £650 millions.

A commission to design the complex has been awarded to a consortium, headed by Sir William Halcrow and Partners. Final plans are not expected to be completed until

1989, but the Ministry of Defence said that preliminary site work could begin next year.

The covered dry dock facility will be about 200 metres long, 165 metres wide and 40 metres high. The new complex will be built by the Property Services Agency.

The work, which is expected to be completed in the mid-1990s, which is when the first Trident submarine is scheduled to be entering service, will create nearly 1,100 jobs at its peak. The existing facilities will be used for servicing surface naval ships, once the new submarine facility is in use.

Rosyth, in common with the royal dockyard at Devonport, is to have commercial management introduced to replace the existing Ministry of Defence management.

Lovestruck Scottish toads court death on road

By Ronald Faux

Toads that would a-wooing go are causing a traffic hazard on the main road between Arbroath and Brechin in Scotland.

Acting on the oldest impulse, they swarm in their hundreds in a narrow swathe across the road which separates their winter quarters from a pond where they mate.

The exodus happens shortly after dusk, giving motorists no time to avoid the carpet of toads covering the road.

"The slaughter is terrible," Dr Alastair Sommerville, conservation officer for the Scot-

tish Wildlife Trust, said yesterday as volunteers mounted a toad watch in an attempt to keep down casualties.

Apart from hardship for the Angus toad population, the experience is unpleasant and dangerous for any motorist who tries to avoid the migration by braking hard on a road smeared with squashed toads.

Dr Sommerville said: "It becomes extremely slippery. The trust has asked the Angus highways authority to put up a Department of Transport road sign to give some warning."

A toad takes an average of about five minutes to cross the

road but many take longer because they pair up, male and female, beforehand. "It is a very competitive time. The males try to secure a decent female as early as possible by gripping her on the wrong side of the road and being carried across to the pond on her back."

Toads are creatures of habit and, barring traffic accidents, can expect to live for about five years. A strong impulse annually drives them to the same pond, where collectively they couple and spawn.

"On the appropriate night, depending on conditions and the weather, they all move together. The mass crossing of busy roads is not a new problem and we try to help with volunteers who put them up, put them into buckets, carry them across and release them on the other side. But it is not possible to pin down beforehand the precise night that the toads will decide to move," Dr Sommerville said.

Sadly, the toads' natural defence against predators, a poison gland in the skin which makes them taste extremely unpleasant for any bird or animal, is no protection against an articulated truck.

JP 24-66 1520

'Conspiracy of silence' is blamed for cost of stress among nurses

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Severe stress at work among nurses is costing them and the National Health Service dear, yet there is a "conspiracy of silence" about the problem, a leading specialist said yesterday.

Almost a third of nurses fail to complete their training, and the profession has high rates of sickness absence, with high staff turnover, compared with that for teachers and social workers.

The suicide rate among nurses is "almost at the top of the league" and five or six times that of teachers and social workers. Nurses smoke heavily and have a shorter life expectancy than comparable groups, Mr Peter Hingley, Director of Nursing Studies at Bristol Polytechnic, said at the launch of a study of stress in 500 senior nurses from ward sister level and above.

Mr Hingley, director of a special project on stress in nurse managers financed by the King's Fund, an independent health research centre, added that about 20,000 nurses, or at least 5 per cent of the workforce, are off sick at any one time, according to official figures. Some studies suggested that sickness absence runs at 12 per cent.

Yet nurses and the public kept silent, the result, he said, of "the angel syndrome".

"There is a myth among the profession and among wider society of the nurse as the angel. There is the belief that the nurse, because of her calling and the sacrifices she makes to the care of others, does not possess the feelings and weaknesses and frailties of the general population. The 'super-nurse' cannot be affected by such things as stress."

Nurses themselves had accepted the myth by denying that there was a problem in the face of mounting evidence, and by rejecting it as a failure of the individual rather than of the profession.

He added that the difficulties nurses face from stress were well defined 25 years ago by Isabel Meuzies, a psychoanalyst at the Tavistock Clinic.

She had said: "The nurse protects herself from these pressures and anxieties by a distancing process from her work, from her patients, from her colleagues and by depersonalization of her patients, treating them as objects and things rather than individuals, leading in the end to loss of the caring aspects of her traditional role."

But while that work had prompted many studies in the United States, leading to definition of the "burn-out" syndrome, only two large-scale studies had been undertaken in Britain.

Mr Hingley is working with Guy's Hospital, London, and Frenchay Hospital, near Bristol, to devise a simple questionnaire to establish the level of stress among nursing staff, so that health authorities can identify problems and find solutions. He said that the study published yesterday of 500 senior nurses showed that 85 per cent felt that they were overloaded at work.

Staff shortages, or a ratio of too many unqualified to qualified staff led more than 30 per cent of managers to say that they faced "considerable" or "extreme" pressure.

Although stress could be positive, Mr Hingley said, and two-thirds of the nurses said they were satisfied or very satisfied with their work, one in six was dissatisfied, and one in six admitted to frequent consideration not just of changing jobs, but of leaving nursing.

Stress in Nurse Managers: King's Fund Publishing Office, 2 St. Andrew's Place, London NW1 4LB; £4.25.

Airline halves Dublin fare

An independent airline is to halve the return air fare between London and Dublin later this month in the first significant initiative since this week's historic judgement by the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg (Our Transport Editor writes).

Ryanair, a new Irish airline, is to offer a £59 one-way fare, compared with £85 charged by British Airways and Aer Lingus, and an unrestricted £85 return fare, compared with £170.

The service will operate four times a day, each way between Luton and Dublin from May 23, using 44-seat British Aerospace 748 turboprop aircraft taking 80 minutes, compared with 55 minutes by jet from Heathrow Airport.

Ryanair plans to introduce jets within a year, offering faster and cheaper services, Mr Derek O'Brien, the company's general manager, said in London.

Funds plea from food exporters

Food from Britain, a marketing organization established in 1983 to promote exports, yesterday gave the farming and food manufacturing industries another two months to provide guarantees of future funding.

It had set a deadline of April 30, but has now extended it to the end of June, primarily to allow the National Farmers' Union to conduct a poll of cereal growers on whether they will support a levy.

Food from Britain wants a guaranteed annual budget of £4,800,000, of which £3 million will be provided by the Government this year and £2 million in 1987-88.

But the Government has said it expects the industry to provide the funds thereafter and, judged on the present lack of enthusiasm, this is in serious doubt.

Bus driver to be disciplined

Mr Graham Stocks, aged 38, of Llandudno, the driver who drenched a party of schoolgirls when he drove his bus through an automatic wash after they threw eggs and flour on the floor, is to be disciplined by his company.

He soaked the girls to put a dampener on their rowdy behaviour while taking them home from Aberconwy Comprehensive School at Conwy.

Chamois duty protest to US

British leather producers have protested against the inclusion of chamois leather in the list of EEC goods on which the United States proposes to impose duties in retaliation for Spanish tariffs on American soyabean and corn.

Britain supplies nearly two-thirds of the chamois leather used in the United States, in a trade worth more than £4 million.

London push

The British Travel Centre, which is designed to make travelling easier for London's tourists and encourage visitors to use London as a gateway to other British cities, opened in Regent Street yesterday.

£500 bill for flowers at funerals

By Robin Young

The average corpse goes to its final resting place wreathed with at least £500 worth of flowers, according to this week's *New Society*.

Miss Phyllis Willmott argues in an article that "astronomical" sums of money spent on flowers at funerals could be better donated to charity.

Readers of *The Times* already favour such donations, she shows. An analysis of one month's funeral announcements in *The Times* showed that 17 per cent stipulated "no flowers". A further 21 per cent asked for "family flowers only".

Of 550 announcements 216, nearly two fifths, suggested a donation to charity instead. Cancer relief and research was the most popular cause, and more than half the requests went to medical charities, hospitals and hospices, and organizations concerned with health and welfare.

Meanwhile the London borough of Lewisham has signed a contract with the Co-op for funeral services at a standard rate of £350.

A council survey showed that bereaved families were paying between £600 and £800 for a funeral, and that some funeral directors were working on commission.

Lewisham's municipal funerals will include doctors' and clergy fees, and will offer particular requests, such as Muslim bathing of the body, at no extra cost.



Re-enacting the famous Sweeps Procession in Rochester yesterday, Carl Mason, aged 10, with his chimney brush and a sooty-faced friend from Elane Junior School. Above right, a Motley Morris man and, below, Shawna Ardley, aged seven, from Trovton Infants School. The procession was last held in 1868 when the use of children as climbers was banned.

Scargill harassment denied

Police who arrived outside the home of Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, in four patrol cars denied yesterday that the exercise was "to make him sweat a bit".

The High Court in Manchester heard Mr Michael Mansfield, representing Mr Scargill, say to a police officer: "I put it plainly. What was going on was a bit of low level harassment, to make him sweat."

"That was the attitude. A man who you may have thought was too big for his boots. Never mind picket lines - 'We will keep him in line.' Is there any possibility of that?"

Police Constable David Lawrence, aged 26, replied: "Not at all."

Mr Scargill is suing South Yorkshire police for exemplary damages by claiming he was wrongfully imprisoned outside his home near Barnsley by police wanting to question him about an alleged speeding offence.

Another officer who attended the scene, PC Ian Scargill (no relation) was asked by Mr Mansfield: "Was there a suggestion you wanted to meet a great man? No remote possibility you went there because he had the same name as yourself and was a famous man?"

PC Scargill: "No sir." He also denied he thought Mr Scargill "was a controversial man you liked or disliked".

A further denial of police attitude came from Sgt John Beattie, aged 41, who had been asked by Mr Mansfield: "I suggest you are not telling the truth. I think you were there to keep Mr Scargill outside his home as a bit of aggression."

PC Lawrence had said earlier that Mr Scargill had not complained about waiting outside his home. "We were talking normally, just the same as it would have been passing the time of day."

The hearing continues today.

Protest at plan to import chickens

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The National Farmers' Union has written to Mr Bernard Matthews, the Norfolk-based poultry producer, protesting at his decision to import thousands of chickens which he intends to sell for less than £1 each.

The deal has been agreed with Doux, of Chateaulin, France's largest frozen chicken producer. The birds are understood to have been destined originally for markets in the Middle East.

The announcement by Mr Matthews coincided with the annual meeting in London of the British Poultry Federation, of which he is a former president. There was anger yesterday among federation members.

Mr Matthews has, in the past, been a leading critic of cheap imports.

Mr Maurice Stokes, the federation chairman, said yesterday that on present evidence many importers could compete only because they flouted EEC legislation. "Unless Community standards are enforced, not only is the British poultry industry going to be damaged but the housewife is going to be conned also into buying a product which does not provide value for money."

Portfolio Gold

The conductor and founder of the Haydn Orchestra was yesterday's winner of the Times Portfolio Gold daily £4,000 prize.

Mr Harry Newstone, who has been Director of Music at Kent University for nearly eight years, has been a reader of *The Times* for 20 years and has taken part in the Portfolio competition since it began two years ago.

Mr Newstone, who lives in Whitstable, Kent, and is about to retire from the university, founded the Haydn Orchestra in 1949.

To play Portfolio Gold you will need a new game card. If you have any difficulty obtaining one from your newsagent, send an S.A.E. to:

Portfolio Gold
The Times
PO Box 40,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.

Rules and how to play information are on page 16.



Mr Harry Newstone, a Times reader for 20 years

'Wanton' killer hunted

Wiltshire police are hunting a "senseless and wanton" killer after a girl aged 15 came home to find her mother and six-month-old sister beaten and butchered to death.

Linda Sutcliffe found her mother, Jeanne, aged 39, and her sister Heidi, almost decapitated in her mother's sewing room when she returned with her father, Mr Paul Sutcliffe, and brother and sister, aged 14 and seven, to The Butts, Westbury.

Detective Superintendent Tony Burden, who is leading the hunt, said: "Whatever the motives for killing Mrs Sutcliffe, the brutal attack on Heidi was senseless and wanton."

Tory toffs and bouffers

There was a time, back in the progressive Sixties, when if you'd spent your youth frequenting the Eton branch of Coutts in your bumfreezer, your chances of securing a Tory seat were severely handicapped.

But the pendulum swings. Today there are forty-two Old Etonian Tories in the Commons. That means over ten per cent upper crust. Or does it?

In this week's Spectator Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd argues that Mrs Thatcher's party has descended into a decidedly 'middle-class' condition.

And because 'middle-class' is now used so indiscriminately he provides a chart sorting Tory MPs into their appropriate social niches: upper upper, lower upper, upper middle etc.

Never before has the social anatomy of the Conservative Party been so publicly exposed. Extra copies are being printed for division bell area newsagents.

Following the death of the Duchess of Windsor, William Deedes recalls how, as a journalist during the Abdication crisis, he was not allowed to reveal what he knew.

And fifty years after A. E. Housman's death, Enoch Powell remembers the "most powerful single intellectual influence in my life", whilst Auberon Waugh, in his exclusive Spectator wine club, recommends an excellent champagne.

All in all, an issue to savour. And, to complement the good read, you will find the cartoons of David Austin, Michael Heath and Nicholas Garland.

THE SPECTATOR

Kiots inquiry: Hurd invites officers' association to talks

PRISONS

The National Executive Committee of the Prison Officers' Association had been invited to talks at the Home Office with a view to the simultaneous calling off of industrial action and the institution of discussions about the future of the prison service. Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said in a Commons statement about disturbances in the prisons caused by the prison officers' dispute.

The agenda (he added) was:

- rapid settlement of this year's pay claim, including the outstanding question of a reduction in the working week for prison officers;
- immediate payment of tax compensation for housing allowance for 1985-86;
- bringing forward as fast as possible work on new shift systems and pay arrangements for detailed discussion with the POA, with a view to the new arrangements being in place by April 1987. He added that that was the crucial point.

Earlier, the Prime Minister had also expressed pleasure that the prison officers had called off action.

Mr Hurd said there would need to be an inquiry into the disturbances. The form and scope of this (he said) will have to be compatible with any police investigation into alleged offences.

Prison governors are in touch with their local chief officers of police about the situation in their establishments.

After consultations with me, the acting President of the Association of Chief Police Officers has opened the National Information Centre at New Scotland Yard to facilitate the dissemination of information relating to the police involvement in the current prisons dispute.

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr George Younger) has ordered preparations in case military camps are needed to house prisoners as a result of the destruction of prison accommodation.

Arrangements have been made to ensure a coordinated response by all Government departments to the present difficult situation.

Although some of the violent action by prisoners may have been imitative, there is little doubt that the occasion for it was the overtime ban instituted by the National Executive Committee of the Prison Officers' Association as part of its dispute about manning levels with the Prison Department.

This both increased the prospect of trouble in the prisons and reduced the resources available to deal with it.

I believe (he said) that not only the public but many members of the Prison Officers' Association will have been appalled by the events of the last 24 hours.

I therefore welcome the decision of the National Executive Committee of the POA to suspend its industrial action to allow talks at the Home Office to take place.

The POA asked in a statement for a reciprocal gesture, asking us to allow staff to work normally and lift threats of suspension.

There should be no difficulty about this. Staff have been relieved from duty, that is to say suspended, can lift their own suspension by agreeing to work normally. We cannot start substantive negotiations until the threat of industrial action has been removed.

Many of us (he said) were appalled that they ever took it.

Mr Hurd concluded his statement by saying he hoped the POA NEC would respond positively to the package he had announced and that the talks he had set in hand would find a way through present difficulties.

I shall be doing everything I can to ensure that the peace that has been regained in our prisons is maintained and that a constructive way forward is found from this destructive dispute.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs: The country has

been appalled at the savagery of last night's events and also at the widespread nature of the answers which have prevailed.

We deplore and condemn the violence and would like more information as soon as it is available about the report of two deaths at Northey.

What we need is an early resolution of this dispute. It is here, especially after last night's events which could and should have been foreseen, that the Home Secretary has an inescapable responsibility.

The only people who can remove the mandate for industrial action are the members of the POA. In order for them to be able to do that they need to have placed before them a package from the Home Secretary for the membership to consider.

I strongly urge the Home Secretary to instruct his officials immediately to get in touch with the POA national executive so they can discuss with them the basis for a possible agenda for talks.

I hope the Home Secretary will take such constructive action urgently because a renewal of last night's arson and violence is too grim for anyone to contemplate.

Mr Hurd: I welcome the change in his tone. He asked about reports of deaths at Northey. There were such reports, they came from a prisoner coming out.

Since the authorities regained control at Northey they have made thorough searches of the premises and have not been able to substantiate the reports. If there is any change in that, it will have to be made known at once.

At the beginning of this week I found myself in procedural discussions with the POA and there was talk of suspending action then, but particularly damaging action had got under way in Gloucester and I learned it was instigated by the POA.

You cannot run substantial negotiations under these conditions and that is why I hope the suggestion, and I hope will find merit in it, of a simultaneous removal of industrial action, taking account of the point about the rules, and agreement on methods of starting discussions on the agenda I set up.

Mr Leon Brittan (Richmond, York, C), a former Home Secretary, said it was reasonable to ensure that the vast increased resources spent by the Government on the prison service were properly managed and not wasted on excessive overtime.

After what happened last night, the POA would forfeit the support of those most sympathetic to them unless the threat of industrial action was not just suspended but clearly withdrawn.

Mr Hurd: I agree.

Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP): He has clearly been right to stand firm on the position that it must be the prison governors, subject to the rules of the Home Office endorsed by this House, and not the POA, who are responsible for running the prisons. There is one person above all who is responsible for the politicization of the law and order issue and that is Mr Tebbit.

Mr Hurd: I do not read Mr Tebbit's remarks in that way. Mr Tebbit was drawing attention to the results of some of the social legislation Mr Jenkins introduced.



Jenkins: Governors should run the prisons

NUCLEAR LEAK

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, defended the safety of the British nuclear industry during Commons questions on the Soviet nuclear accident as second to none and called on MPs to support the excellent nuclear industry and its furtherance.

She refused a Labour MP's request to discontinue the British Government's interest in the pressurized water reactor.

Britain had offered help to the Soviet Union on technological aspects connected with the accident but so far they had not seen fit to take it up.

Dr David Owen, Leader of the SDP, Can she ask Sir Frank Layfield, who is currently writing his report on the Sizewell inquiry, to take full account of the disaster that has taken place in the Soviet Union?

We have waited many years for this inquiry and it would be very helpful in making a final decision if he was able to take as much evidence from the Soviet Union as possible.

Mrs Thatcher: The report of the inquiry is a report of conclusions from the evidence given at the inquiry and cannot go further and include matters which have arisen since the inquiry.

The reactor in the Soviet Union is totally different from any here, and the record of safety in design, operation and maintenance, and inspection of this country is second to none. I hope therefore he will think it right to support the furtherance of such an excellent nuclear industry.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C): Despite the lack of information from the Soviet Union about the disaster that has seriously affected her nearest neighbours, the Poles at least are taking all sorts of measures to protect their children. If any request comes from that country for help in regard to medications and special foods, will we not hesitate to give it urgently, without any conditions?

Mrs Thatcher: If any requests do come of course we shall look at them with the greatest sympathy and do our level best to get help there as soon as possible.

Mr Allan Rogers (Rhondda, Lab): The Minister for Energy said on April 14 that the nuclear energy was the safest, cleanest.

Mr Cranley Onslow (Woking, C): She is being invited to draw comparisons between western and Soviet technology. Because the Russians failed to create the perfect Concorde, it does not mean Concorde is unsafe.

Mrs Thatcher: I think his question poses very neatly the differences of approach between the two countries, where we pay such great attention and stress on the need for safety in the latest technology.

Mr Harry Gressaway (Ealing North, C): Would she seek to encourage an internationally accepted safety standard and its application throughout the world - Russia, ourselves and everywhere else?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I think the accident in the Soviet Union has stressed that safety must be an international matter and we shall pursue this vigorously.

Mr Geoffrey Lofthouse (Pontefract and Castleford, Lab): Is the Prime Minister really satisfied that a nuclear accident cannot happen in our industry like it happened in the Soviet Union? If not, will she give the House an assurance that the Government will discontinue their interest in the PWR?

Mrs Thatcher: No, I can give no such assurance. I know he has a specific interest in coal, but there are other people who work in electricity and the nuclear industry and work very effectively.

It was started in this country. It is one of our own technologies and he should be proud of the safety record and the way we have handled our nuclear industry with safety and economy.

Earlier, Mr Michael Latham



Braine: Help Poland protect her children

(Rutland and Melton, C) had asked the Prime Minister to press at the Tokyo summit for the fullest cooperation and the pooling between east and west of all scientific knowledge which would help to prevent any further similar disaster.

Would she also say that this was the only way to build confidence in nuclear weapons disarmament talks, if they could deal effectively with civil disasters?

Mrs Thatcher said she agreed wholeheartedly. These matters went way beyond the borders of any country and must be dealt with on a global scale.

She hoped that all the details of the terrible accident would be reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency so everyone could profit from it and that inspectors would be able to go in to see and deduce precisely what happened.

I agree (she added) with Mr Latham's deduction on the other point. Knowing something of what has happened there and how difficult it is to get facts and assessment, it should make us wary that in any arms control negotiations we must be meticulous to get specific, practical, strict verification of any agreement.

Big threat still being faced in Ulster

TERRORISM

There has been no lessening of the determination of the Ulster security forces to fight terrorism, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, insisted during Commons questions.

In the past six days alone, he added, 15 weapons and 1,243lbs of explosives have been recovered.

Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C) had asked him to make clear, also, all to Northern Ireland extremists reporting to violence in their efforts to undermine the Anglo-Irish agreement, that the Government had no intention of being deflected from its purpose in signing, even if there were to be a temporary deterioration in the security situation.

Mr King: From the evidence of the past few days, our determination to root out terrorism from wherever it comes should be clear enough to everybody. Our very successes in the past few days and the scale of the bomb attacks are the clearest indication of the size of the threat we still face.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab): How is the security situation helped by the availability of insurance? I have a letter written by Sedgwick (UK) Limited, a City of London insurance company, offering kidnapping and extortion insurance to a prominent citizen in Northern Ireland.

What is he going to do about it? Does he intend to turn a blind eye or does he accept that he has a duty as a minister committed to some restoration of peace in Northern Ireland to intervene and prevent the sale of these policies on the open market?

Mr King asked Mr Campbell-Savours to send him a copy of the letter. It is an offer of insurance? (he went on) to pay money by way of ransom to any proscribed organization. I take a strong view. This question goes much wider than the one he raised. The whole matter of rackets, extortion and protection is something on which, I believe, we should take the strongest possible action.

Public Order Bill

The Public Order Bill which makes changes in the law on riot, and on assemblies, introduces new measures to combat football hooliganism, was read the third time in the Commons early today by 116 votes to 14 - Government majority, 112.

Judgment of court is welcomed

AIR FARES

The Government was very pleased with the decision of the European Court of Justice yesterday on air fares, which confirmed the Government's position that it was not bound by a long time competition also applied to air fares, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions.

The people of Britain owed a debt to the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Nicholas Ridley) for his strenuous efforts to reduce air fares and further advance competition instead of rigging the market.

She was replying to Mr David Atkinson (Bournemouth East, C) who in referring to yesterday's ruling by the European Court of Justice against price fixing of European air fares, asked: Does this not now put the Government in a position of competition to bring down the level of long enjoyed in the United States?

Will the Government now discuss with Lord King as to the fact that British Airways should set its fares at the level of the United States?

In the House of Lords, the Earl of Caithness, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said at question time that the ruling was generally helpful to the Government's efforts to secure liberalisation of air transport in Europe.

We particularly welcome the fact (he said) that the court has made clear beyond doubt what we have said all along, that EEC competition rules apply to aviation.

More women should get allowance

INVALID CARE

Legal opinion had advised that if the Government were found to discriminate against women in the European Court in June and did not pay invalid care allowance to eligible women regardless of whether they claimed backdated to October 1984, then the Government would be acting unlawfully, Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on social services, said when opening an Opposition debate on caring for the carers.

Moving an Opposition motion demanding invalid care allowance be made available to married women carers, he said the Government now had an undeniable duty to pay the allowance to married and co-habiting women. The motion also called for adequate respite care, and a flexible system of cash and other appropriate support services, such as home helps and home nursing.

There were an estimated 5.5 million people caring for disabled and elderly relatives at home. Carers saved the state something like £5,000 million.

Labour would extend invalid care allowance to married and co-habiting women; appoint a carers' liaison officer to each social services department to assess their needs; and seek to provide respite care and a flexible system of other support and services for carers.

Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, moving the Government amendment which said the European judgement, not expected until June, would be carefully considered, explained that extending the invalid care allowance to married women would cost an estimated £100 million a year, net of savings to other benefits.

Talks could start soon

ULSTER

Exploratory discussions could begin shortly with the two Northern Ireland Unionist leaders to see whether a framework for dialogue can be established as suggested by the Prime Minister on April 16, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

The Defence White Paper

The Defence White Paper is to be published on May 12. Mr John Biffen, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Commons, said during business questions.

NI Assembly MPs could lose pay

There was great force in the argument that those who failed to take up their seats in the Northern Ireland Assembly should not continue to draw their salaries and the matter was being looked at very carefully, Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

He also said there was no point in perpetuating an Assembly beyond the end of its natural life in October, or even allowing it to continue as long as that, if it was failing.

Time to get rid of trade barriers

TOKYO SUMMIT

Trade barriers needed to be reduced, it was time for a new GATT to get rid of them and Britain would continue to persevere with this line at the Tokyo summit and beyond, despite a great deal of hostility in some quarters, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions shortly before leaving for the summit.

She was asked by Mr Peter Viggers (Gosport, C): The greatest single boost to world trade would be reduction of trade barriers and the promotion of genuine free trade throughout the world, and the reduction of the all price provides a good background for such a new initiative. Will she press such a new initiative in Tokyo?

Mrs Thatcher: We do need to reduce trade barriers. Something like one third and one half of world trade is subject to some form of protection.

Police not so quick to tell relatives after arrests

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The promptness with which the police notify relatives of the arrest and detention of a suspect when requested to do so is deteriorating, particularly in London, according to Home Office statistics.

In the metropolitan area, the number of such requests not dealt with within four hours rose by about 50 per cent to 311 in the first six months of 1985, compared with 211 in the first half of 1984.

Outside the London metropolitan area, the police failed to fulfil 1,257 requests to notify suspects' relatives, a 4 per cent increase on 1984. It came after increases of 7 per cent and 30 per cent in the two previous years.

The total figure for 1985 was still only about one in a thousand of the total number of arrests, a Home Office statistical bulletin said.

The bulletin said that, in exceptional cases, requests were not dealt with for more than 24 hours. In 1985, 80 such delays were recorded in 51 cases outside London, fewer than in the past two years and less than one in 10,000 arrests.

But in the London metropolitan area, the number of notifications not carried out within 24 hours because of special circumstances rose from 18 in the first half of 1984 to 34 for the same period last year.

Police forces vary in the number and proportion of cases in which notification of relatives is delayed. Half the police forces outside the London metropolitan area recorded less than one delay of four hours or more in every 1,000 arrests. A further 12 recorded between one and two delays per 1,000 arrests and nine recorded more than two per 1,000.

The City of London had the highest rate of delayed notification, but its police force dealt with only a small number of arrests.

Suspects have a right to have someone notified of their arrest without more delay than necessary under Section 62 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

Fire at chemical centre

By Michael Horsnell

A fire caused hundreds of thousands of pounds of damage at Porton Down, Wiltshire, where the Ministry of Defence secret chemical defence establishment is based, it was confirmed yesterday.

But it was confined by firemen to a suite of rooms in the neighbouring Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research, an operation run for the Department of Health and Social Security, which replaced the former germ warfare establishment in 1979.

Dr Peter Sutton, director of the centre, said: "We handle infectious organisms here as part of our work for the DHSS but that part of the centre was not affected by the fire. There has been no release of infectious organisms and no hazard to the public. Secret work is no longer carried out here except in the commercial sense."

The fire wrecked rooms used in pharmaceutical production and smoke damaged biochemical laboratories above.

About 25 firemen took an hour to bring the fire under control on Wednesday.

Picture of James Watt finds national home

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The Scottish National Gallery spent £41,040 (estimate £10,000-£15,000) on Wednesday night for a portrait of James Watt, whose pioneering work on the steam engine led to the adoption of his name as a measure of energy and ushered in Britain's industrial revolution.

The portrait, which they bought at Christie's auction in the Edinburgh Assembly Rooms, shows Watt at work on the Newcomen steam engine which belonged to Glasgow University.

It is a lampish scene with Watt, dividers in hand, leaning across from a table of working drawings to gaze at the engine on his other side. The lighting, reminiscent of Caravaggio, combined with scientific invention, echoes Joseph Wright of Derby's famous studies of science, which the artist was clearly imitating. It is the work of James Eckford Lauder, (1811-1869), a little-known Scottish artist. The picture sale was

80 miles of motorway renewal

By Our Transport Editor

Britain's road network would be the focus this year of its biggest capital maintenance programme, Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, said yesterday.

Some 80 miles of motorway would be renewed, reducing the backlog by 10 miles, and 185 miles of trunk road, he told the British Aggregates and Construction Materials Industry in London.

Mr Ridley said that not as much had been spent on road maintenance in recent years as the Government would have liked, but if the present renewal programme was maintained, the backlog in road maintenance would be eliminated by the early 1990s.

Capital investment in new road construction was 23 per cent up in real terms since 1979, Mr Ridley said. This alone disposed of the theory of crumbling infrastructure.

The gains had been achieved largely by a 20 per cent fall in real construction costs since 1979, and by cuts in public transport revenue subsidies to finance road construction.

PC sent to trial in death case

By a Staff Reporter

Police Constable Brian Chester, aged 36, was committed for trial at Birmingham Crown Court by the city's stipendiary magistrate yesterday, accused of the manslaughter of John Shorthouse, aged five.

Mr Chester, who was granted bail, is charged with unlawfully killing the boy during a raid by armed officers on his home in Barratts Road, King's Norton, Birmingham, last August.

Remand in plane charge

A Jordanian charged with trying to destroy a jumbo jet airliner and conspiring to murder his pregnant girlfriend, was remanded in custody until Thursday when he appeared before magistrates at Lambeth, south London, yesterday.

An application for bail on behalf of Nezar Hindawi, aged 31, of no fixed address, was refused. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

University brain-drain 'puts teaching and research in jeopardy'

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

New evidence of a university brain-drain is published today in a report from independent consultants who say that standards of research and teaching in British universities are at risk because high-calibre staff are not applying for academic posts and skilled lecturers are leaving.

British universities lost 1,404 staff in the academic year, 1984-85, and replacements are hard to find, according to the report from PA consultants.

Morale among academics is said to be at rock bottom, and the supply of future graduate recruits to industry and commerce is in jeopardy.

Dr David Ingram, vice-chancellor of Kent University, said: "American universities made it clear that they expect to solve their difficulties in recruiting new staff by taking people from Britain's universities."

"They were very apologetic that this poaching was necessary. But they said it was a question of survival," Dr Ingram said.

Figures from the British Embassy in Washington show that more than 1,000 engineers

Graduate Starting Salary

	£
UK	7,420-8,100
Australia	8,440-11,100
Germany	10,880-13,600
Netherlands	8,100-11,000
Sweden	5,400-6,240
USA	10,800-16,620

and scientists are entering the US from Britain each year.

The report, which was commissioned by the Association of University Teachers and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, found that low pay and blocked promotion were the main deterrents to high quality applicants for university posts.

Although new graduate research staff start on competitive salaries of between £7,000 and £8,000, they fall behind fairly quickly.

By the age of 32 the median salaries of those working in the universities are 44 per cent below those working outside and 63 per cent below the salaries of "high-flyers".

University staff report dissatisfaction with their pay, deteriorating conditions for research, an increasing burden of administration and "distinct pessimism" about the future.

New recruits to the university system were seen as unsatisfactory by one-third of

the academics surveyed. Among those who left the system one in five (20.8 per cent) went overseas, and one in 12 went into industry.

The survey was based on 180 detailed interviews and 638 completed questionnaires from six universities - Bradford, Bristol, Warwick, Leeds, Glasgow and University College London. This exercise yielded a 59 per cent response rate.

A total of 192 main employers were surveyed, with a 38 per cent response rate, and detailed interviews were conducted with the BBC, BP, British Aerospace, the Civil Service, IBM, ICI, PA consultants, Plessey, Wellcome and Arthur Young.

There were signs that the brain drain might get worse because of the number of academics (91 per cent) who believed they had a chance of getting work outside the university system.

Miss Diana Warwick, general secretary of the AUT, said the report showed academics to be exploited, poorly rewarded and with sorry prospects. "This dramatic new evidence demands a speedy response from Government, with increased resources to save quality and standards," she said.

Academics at Oxford pose legal problem

The Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, Sir Patrick Neill QC, has said that the university could face legal action over its failure to find fellowships for 38 academics.

In a report to the heads of Oxford colleges, Sir Patrick says some of the 38 staff, mostly university lecturers, are becoming impatient after waiting more than a year for a college fellowship.

"This is a point on which we are legally vulnerable. It also represents, quite simply, an injustice," he said.

The problem has arisen because although the university can appoint lecturers, it can not insist that a college confers a fellowship. Yet, according to the university's own rules, most lecturers are also entitled to a fellowship.

Sir Patrick suggests that a panel of "three wise men" should be appointed to allocate fellowships to colleges.

But some of the colleges, which insist on their right to govern themselves, are likely to resist any attempt to force them to give fellowships to university appointments, in spite of Sir Patrick's warning that legal advice has confirmed that "the university's position with regard to the existing non-fellows is at best insecure". College heads have until May 19 to respond.



On her twenty-second birthday, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones leaves her home in Fulham, west London, yesterday for the Royal Academy of Arts (Photograph: Julian Herbert).

Airlines urged to improve safety test procedures

The 90-second evacuation time given for passengers to escape from aircraft in case of an emergency is not long enough to save lives, the Consumers' Association, which yesterday called for a review of the current test procedure, says.

In its magazine *Holiday Watch* it says the "approved" time for getting passengers out of an aircraft in case of an accident is not long enough for real emergencies.

The association says that many people can become unconscious from the effect of smoke well within 90 seconds, and it criticized the way evacuation tests failed to simulate accurately true accident conditions when panic, smoke and injury can slow people down.

"Fire and smoke are the major killers in all survivable plane crashes and passengers will be given a greater chance for survival if more is done to

improve safety and escape plans," the report said.

Among the improvements suggested are:

- Fitting smoke hoods to the backs of seats to filter toxic fumes;
- Developing new materials to use in cabin panels and overhead lockers which do not give off toxic smoke when burnt;
- Instructions for passengers seated next to emergency exits on how to open them in an emergency.

The Consumers' Association wants these and other safety regulations to become standard international requirements.

The magazine points out that flying is still safer than travelling by car.

Although it says that 1985 was the worst year for deaths in airline accidents with 2,129 people killed worldwide, 1984 was one of the safest with 451 deaths.

Strip-search plea fails

Two women who have been awaiting trial since last August on charges of conspiracy to cause explosions, failed in the High Court yesterday to obtain an order restraining the governor of Brixton Prison from ordering strip searches.

Miss Martina Anderson searched 248 times and Miss Ella O'Dwyer on 227 occasions. Mr Justice Hodgson said that he was restrained by binding authority from giving the women leave to seek judicial review.

The trial of the women is due to begin at the Central Criminal Court next week.

'Useless grain' in storage

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

A Commons select committee says in a report published yesterday that it is "profoundly disturbed" that large sums of public money are being spent to purchase and store feed wheat, which the head of the Home Grown Cereals Authority, a government quango, has described as "utterly valueless".

The report says: "We are concerned that we are producing grain which we cannot sell for animal feed and is unfit for human consumption, particularly at a time when conditions of famine still exist in underdeveloped parts of the world."

The report, by the all-party agriculture committee, castigates Ministry of Agriculture officials for their lack of any sense of urgency.

Final estimates indicate that about 5,500,000 tonnes of surplus grain were being held in intervention storage in the United Kingdom at the end of last year, the committee says.

The *Disposal and Storage of Cereal Surpluses* (First Report from the Agriculture Committee, 1985-86, House of Commons Paper 23-1, Stationery office, £3.60).

Bail plea fails

A bail plea pending appeal by Judy Carne, aged 46, the actress who was jailed last week for drug offences, was rejected yesterday in the High Court.

She was given leave to appeal against the three-month sentence.

Pesticide controls criticized

By Sheila Gunn
Political Staff

Patients suffering from the effects of pesticide sprays did not receive proper treatment because of widespread ignorance about the symptoms, MPs were told yesterday.

In evidence to the Commons select committee on agriculture, Mr Nigel Dudley, a researcher with the Soil Association, said the police and others in authority were also uncertain how to deal with complaints of spray damage.

He appealed for much greater controls on the spraying of farmland. Doctors also needed a guide, giving the chemical make-up of different sprays.

Mr Dudley said the legal position of those claiming spray damage was also confused. Some large insurance companies were increasingly reluctant to pay out on claims, and those who took legal action against farmers often had to wait three or four years before their cases were heard.

The Soil Association, which advocates a return to organic farming, has called for a ban on the aerial spraying of arable crops and a change in spray machinery to stop drifting.

In evidence to the committee, which is investigating the effects of pesticides on humans, the association said many garden pesticides available in Britain were banned in other countries.

"Despite the hazards involved, garden pesticides are still sold with advertisements, leaflets and in containers which all minimize the dangers involved," it said.

Science report

Vaccine gives hope to foot-and-mouth fight

By Andrew Coghlan

Prevention of the one epidemic among cattle which farmers dread most, foot-and-mouth disease, has become possible with a synthetic vaccine developed jointly by British and American scientists.

Dr Tim Doel and Dr Noel Moray, of the UK Animal Virus Research Institute at Pirbright, Surrey, have tested a vaccine which carries key advantages over those used at present.

The newly-developed vaccine is a chemical manufactured in laboratories, unlike existing vaccines, which consist of an inactivated or "killed" version of the entire virus. It comprises parts of the virus which are recognized by the bovine defence system. This, in turn, forms white cells or antibodies to combat the infection.

The artificially-constructed vaccine, made of chemicals called peptides, is claimed to be superior to conventional vaccines in three ways.

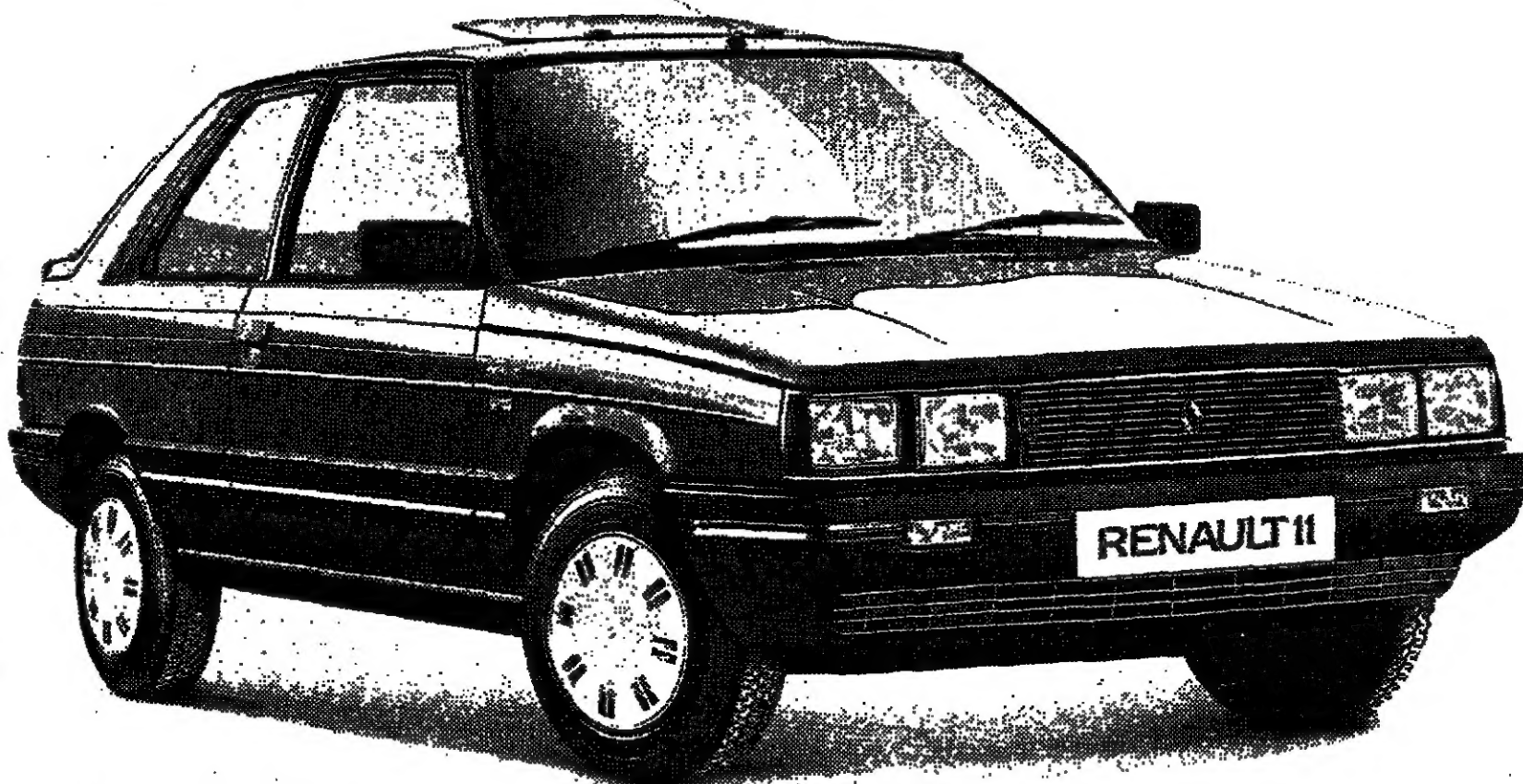
While existing vaccines are composed of "dead" virus cells, there have been instances where contamination with "live" virus has occurred.

In 1981, thousands of cattle had to be burnt when a contaminated vaccine, swept through Brittany, Jersey, and the Isle of Wight. The engineered version carries absolutely no risk of this, the researchers say, as it is simply a chemical.

Nor does it suffer from "cold chain problems". "If improperly refrigerated, traditional vaccines can decay in the tropics," Dr Doel says.

Source: *Science*, 2 May 1986, vol 232, pgs 639 to 641.

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Moscow shrugs off nuclear disaster but facts point to a decade of danger

Complacency reigns as Red Square parade ignores Chernobyl toll

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The sharp contrast between Soviet and Western attitudes to the Chernobyl disaster was much in evidence yesterday as Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, presided over the traditional May Day parade through a Red Square filled with balloons.

While the two compounds for Westerners were filled with anxious conversation about health precautions issued by embassy doctors, the tens of thousands of Soviet participants seemed unaware of the magnitude of the disaster in the Ukraine.

Television coverage of the parade made no mention, direct or indirect, of the incident, and none of the banners made any reference to it. Chants over loudspeakers delivered strong attacks on the US, however, for its recent underground nuclear tests.

Soviet citizens watching the parade in sunshine appeared quite unconcerned about the potential consequences of explosion, some blaming the Western press for hysteria and exaggeration.

"The complacency being shown is hard to believe. You would think that all we were talking about was a fire at an oil refinery," said one American in the crowded-off viewing section close to Lenin's marble tomb. "People appear genuinely ignorant about the long-term effects of a radiation leak on this scale."

Mrs Raisa Gorbachev was

standing close by, in an elegant matching black hat and tailored cape, but there was no indication whether her choice of outfit had any symbolic meaning of mourning. The consensus among diplomats was that it did not.

Although Mr Gorbachev appeared outwardly as confident as usual watching the columns of workers marching by, many Western observers believe that his internal and external credibility may have been damaged both by his handling of the disaster and by its long-term economic consequences.

"The bread-basket of the Soviet Union is in the Ukraine, and there is growing

evidence to suggest that the long-term results there are going to be bad," said an American economic expert in the crowd. "The world, and particularly Europe, will take a long time to forget how he kept his neighbours in the dark."

Although Mrs Gorbachev told Western journalists that

she was looking forward to meeting Mrs Nancy Reagan again at the Washington summit, which Soviet sources now predict will be in September, the parade contained giant banners with slogans attacking US "imperialism" and the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Because of the Kremlin's reluctance to reveal details of the Chernobyl disaster, and its complete failure to issue any health warnings to Soviet citizens, the concern of Westerners — particularly the mothers of young children — stood out strongly against the festive atmosphere of the parade.

Among the crowds lining the route, one middle-aged woman waving a red flag and carrying a bunch of gaudy artificial flowers said: "We have been told that there is nothing to worry about, and that is what we believe. It is people in the West who hate communism who are telling lies about thousands of people dying."

One mother from the Western diplomatic community, who had just been instructed to stop her children eating Soviet milk products and who was well aware of the possible effects on meat, vegetables and fish, said: "Of course I am worried about myself and the children. But one also worries about the Russians. They must face the same dangers as us, but don't seem to know anything about it."



Girls in traditional costume taking part in the May Day parade yesterday in Kiev, 60 miles from the Chernobyl nuclear plant. Below, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, waving to the May Day parade in Red Square in Moscow.



Russians refuse aid offer

Reagan hits at news blackout

From Michael Rinyon, Washington

The Russians had expressed appreciation of the US offer of help in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster, but did not see any need for it, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, who is travelling with President Reagan in the Far East, said yesterday.

"They felt they were adequately equipped to deal with the problem... maybe they'll come to a different conclusion," he said in Bali. Both President Reagan and Mr Shultz criticized Moscow for not having released more information more quickly. "They're usually a little close-mouthed about these things, and this is no exception," Mr Reagan said.

Mr Shultz accused the Russians of having failed to live up to international obligations to notify countries that might be affected. "The fact is that from our own sources we

know more than the Soviets have told us."

He also said that the US suspected that the casualty toll was considerably higher than the two dead and 197 taken to hospital reported by Tass.

Mr Reagan had been briefed daily, but had no plans to telephone Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader.

Mr Vladimir Lomeiko, the chief Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, who is in the US for a conference, said on television here that everything was under control.

He said that the Soviet Union had reported the accident the moment it knew about it.

In a personal message to President Reagan, however, Mr Gorbachev said that the accident began on Friday. The first Soviet announcement came on Monday.

Radiation levels

Romania registers a rise in north-east

By Our Foreign Staff

Vienna — Romania said yesterday it has registered an overnight rise in radioactivity in the north-east of the country.

The official Agerpres news agency said that a committee has been established to monitor the situation. No indication was given of the extent of the rise or whether it meant a danger to health.

Czechoslovakia said that measurements there indicated no danger to health, but did not say whether any rise had been detected.

Ten Austrians evacuated from the Ukraine were found to be suffering from slight but not dangerous radioactivity contamination, experts said in Vienna.

STOCKHOLM: Radiation over Sweden dropped sharply during the night, Swedish authorities said.

Officials at the Radiological Protection Institute said that samples from helicopters and aircraft and data from ground monitoring stations showed levels only 20 per cent of those on Wednesday.

In the most affected area in eastern Sweden, where radioactivity had been about 10 times higher than normal, the level had fallen to just double normal.

BONN: Levels in West Germany fell steadily after a slight initial rise, officials said.

GENEVA: Levels in Switzerland continued to rise yesterday but they posed no threat to health, nationwide monitoring centres said.

Warring states disagree on terms

Algiers (Reuters) — An agenda for direct peace talks to end the Gulf War has been accepted by Iran and Iraq, but they disagree on ceasefire terms, the UN Secretary-General, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, was quoted as saying.

In an interview published by the Algerian magazine *Algérie Actualité*, he outlined the immediate prospects for an end to the five-year-old war.

"The principle of an eight-point agenda for direct negotiations between the parties has been accepted. The two parties, however, remain opposed on how to achieve a cessation of hostilities," he said.

BAHRAIN: A Saudi Arabian tanker was hit and set ablaze in an apparent Iranian missile attack in the southern Gulf.

Bullfighting ruled legal

Brussels (Reuters) — The European Parliament has ruled that it has no power to outlaw bullfighting.

The rules and petitions committee has declared as unacceptable several petitions demanding a ban on the traditional corrida now that Spain and Portugal have joined the EEC.

Highest pass for tourists

Khunjerab Pass, Pakistan (Reuters) — Pakistani and Chinese officials have opened the highest border crossing in the world to tourists hearty and adventurous enough to cross it.

Surrounded by snow-covered peaks, the officials, cold and short of breath in the thin air, cut a ribbon in a short ceremony to open the 15,072-ft pass between Pakistan and China.

War on drugs

Lima (Reuters) — Five South American nations — Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador — have signed a co-operation pact to fight the international cocaine trade.

Base captured

Khartoum (Reuters) — Sudan troops have captured a big rebel supply base in Upper Nile province near the Ethiopian border after three days of fighting, according to the official news agency.

Gang killing

Foggia (Reuters) — Two masked men burst into a private club in this southern Italian town and shot dead three men and a woman in an apparent gangland killing.

Bootleg bust

Jakarta (Reuters) — City officials liquidated 18,300 bottles of confiscated bootleg alcohol, smashing them into a large pit dug for the purpose.

Hero's acre

Perpignan (AFP) — France and Spain have agreed to exchange about an acre of land each on their joint border, because a statue of Luis Companys, the last Republican President of Spain before Franco, was sited by mistake on French soil.

Library lost

Los Angeles (UPI) — More than a million books, historic photographs and valuable archives were destroyed or damaged in a fire that destroyed the city's main library and injured 46 firefighters.

Soviet art

Washington (AP) — An exhibition of 41 paintings on loan from the Soviet Union opened at the National Gallery of Art, the first Soviet contribution to a series of cultural exchanges with the US.

British view

Rigid code of safety covers UK

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The two men at the centre of Britain's nuclear energy programme claimed yesterday that an accident on the scale of Chernobyl could never happen here because of Britain's high safety standards.

Lord Marshall, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, and Lord King, whose company, Babcock, has won the construction contract for Sizewell nuclear power station, were addressing members of the British Nuclear Forum.

Lord Marshall said: "Using British safety standards, the Russian design wouldn't even get past first base."

He said that when he was working as a scientist with the UK Atomic Energy Authority in the 1960s, he was asked to examine Government proposals to build a sophisticated version of the Russian design. He ruled it out on safety grounds.

Lord King maintained that nuclear power was fundamental to the prosperity of Britain, which had built up standards of safety second to none in the world and had stuck to them rigidly.

Sowing the seeds of a deadly harvest

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The Chernobyl disaster may have sown the seeds of a deadly harvest for millions of Russians, scientists said yesterday. A huge area — as big as most of England and Scotland combined — could be hazardous for at least a decade.

Western experts trying to assess the blight of radiation on the Soviet landscape believe that the health, social and economic consequences could represent a "worst-case scenario".



The vast area that experts fear may be hazardous for a decade — almost as big as England and Scotland combined.

Many thousands of square miles of prime agricultural land could be unusable for years, forcing mass resettlement of local populations.

The prevailing winds at the time have probably deposited extremely high levels of radioactivity on a vast swathe of countryside, stretching north-west of the nuclear plant to the north-eastern corner of Poland and close to the Soviet Baltic coast.

The area includes some of the Ukrainian "bread basket" that produces enormous quantities of crops, meat, milk and cheese.

But a high percentage of those foodstuffs could have to be jettisoned because of contamination that would take many years to decline to safe levels.

One expert said yesterday: "The disaster may have created a wasteland in which it would be unsafe to raise cattle or other livestock, to grow fruit, vegetables and winter grains such as wheat and barley. Dairy products would also be contaminated."

He said that evacuations were likely to continue on a large scale in areas within 50 miles north of Chernobyl, and communities much further afield might be forced to abandon their collective farms and seek resettlement.

"The total area that is seriously contaminated probably stretches the equivalent distances between Brighton and Aberdeen in one direction and Brighton and Exeter in the other," he said.

A high rate of cancer is likely within the several million people now living in that area within the next decade, another scientist said.

"The first cases, probably of leukaemia, may start to emerge after three to five years," said Dr Mike Thorne, British secretary of the Inter-

national Commission of Radiological Protection. "A larger number of cases is likely in the following years."

Without accurate data on the levels of contamination, hard figures could be no more than speculation, but between 1,000 and 2,000 cases of cancer or inherited disease per million of the population was not unrealistic, he said.

Dr Thorne agreed with other estimates of the area affected. "One of the most dangerous substances emitted from Chernobyl is caesium-137, which is known to bind itself to the soil. It is taken up by the roots of plants and thus enters the food chain. It also persists in the atmosphere."

"As a result, people and animals are exposed both to the external effects of radiation and the effects of consuming natural foods growing from contaminated soil," he said.

Caesium has a half-life of 30 years, which means that its radioactivity decreases by half after 30 years, and half of that percentage 30 years later, and so on.

Although Swedish scientists have recorded only minute quantities of the substance carried by winds from Chernobyl, it is certain that very high levels were emitted and deposited over Soviet territory.

Police detain hundreds in Santiago slum

Santiago (Reuters) — Chilean police, troops and security agents swept through Santiago slums yesterday for the second day in succession, rounding up hundreds of youths and men in a crackdown on guerrilla violence, witnesses said.

Journalists saw hundreds of men lined up on a football pitch, but were later forced to leave the area.

In a separate incident, a suspected guerrilla was shot in the neck in a gunbattle with security forces and was taken to hospital.

Bhai Gurdev Singh was the only one to be taken of the

five-man committee set up by the extremists to run the affairs of the Sikhs from the temple. The others have gone underground with a large number of other militants, evading police capture.

Police would have liked to capture Mr Harinder Singh Kahlon, leader of a breakaway Sikh student faction, but he too had slipped away.

"Our main objective was to flush out the terrorists and criminal elements who had taken refuge in the complex," Mr Ribeiro said yesterday, "and to hand it over to the

Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (the supreme temple management committee), its legal custodian, in that I have succeeded in achieving the object."

Mr Ribeiro said that one person had died and two were wounded during the seizure of the temple.

The police chief added that 300 people had been rounded up and were being screened at police headquarters.

It was mainly a police operation, but 25 companies of paramilitary police were also involved.

Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, said on the telephone from Gdansk that "May Day in Gdansk was celebrated by uncountable cordons of Interior Ministry workers", a reference to the large police presence in the Baltic port.

The sensitivity of the authorities reflects not only public disquiet about the radiation but also Warsaw's need to show that street unrest has been banished from Poland. In the lead-up to the Communist Party Congress in June and the probable visit of Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, a strong law-and-order policy has taken root.

To emphasise the point, journalists' assistants and Polish film crews working for Western networks have been warned that they face dismissal if caught in an illegal event such as a demonstration.

Police searched film teams leaving the Warsaw church yesterday, and at least one

Sikh extremist leader arrested

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Mr J.F. Ribeiro, the Punjab police chief, claims that his raid on the Golden Temple at Amritsar was a success.

Those detained yesterday included Bhai Gurdev Singh, named by extremists as high priest of the Akal Takht, the immortal throne of Sikh temporal as well as spiritual power.

He and other extremists who had taken sanctuary in the centre of the temple were persuaded to give themselves up.

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five-man committee set up by the extremists to run the affairs of the Sikhs from the temple. The others have gone underground with a large number of other militants, evading police capture.

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Police searched film teams leaving the Warsaw church yesterday, and at least one

Old-fashioned end to Waldheim campaign

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Velvet waistcoats, pink and white dirndls, grey suits with green facings: Graz enjoys dressing up for visiting celebrities.

The second largest city in Austria and, with Salzburg, that part which gave Hitler his most enthusiastic welcome in 1938, is perhaps not a surprising place for Dr Kurt Waldheim to round off his campaign.

While the red paper carnations of the Socialists and the elegant, rather sinister portraits of Dr Waldheim's Socialist rival, Dr Kurt Steyer, were to be seen all over Vienna yesterday for May Day celebrations, Graz drowned any such demonstrations with the bells of its 15 baroque churches and a hearty welcome for the former UN Secretary-General.

As he and his wife strolled among the stalls of the city's celebrated spring trade fair yesterday, they were mobbed with requests for autographs.

A small group of tradesmen wearing red carnations looked on uneasily. But any thoughts they might have had of staging a spontaneous protest were banished by the presence of about a dozen uniformed students bearing flags and sabres as they drank at a bar.

"They look really nasty," observed a Swedish journalist, who had clearly been unaware that anything like this could exist outside an Erich von Stroheim film. "Do Austrian students still fight duels with sabres?" he asked.

An old man in mackintosh and bristles, seeing the journalist's interest and his pen poised, rushed up to say: "Make sure you write the truth, the naked truth."

What was the truth? "Waldheim is the only man to lead Austria, and he certainly was never a war criminal."

"You cannot believe the World Jewish Congress. I was at the Congress during the war, and believe me the post-war Government of this country, which had spent most of its time in concentration camps, would never have given Waldheim a job in 1948 if he had really had anything to do with the Nazis."

Another grey-haired man with side-whiskers, who professed himself a monarchist, added more convincingly: "Look, the man spent seven years in the German Army and only made it from ensign to first lieutenant. He just couldn't have been a committed Nazi."

"The entire campaign against Waldheim is the work of the Socialists, who are terrified of having to work with a President who is not of their party," said an expansive lady in a dirndl selling frankfurters. The students, leaning on their sabres, nodded.

"You see, this is all the World Jewish Congress's fault," an Austrian journalist confided, casting a glance at the uniforms. Thanks to them, all these "cranks and lunatics" were now going to vote for Dr Waldheim.

Like many Austrians who are hoping Dr Waldheim will win but are not anti-semitic, the journalist was horrified at what had happened in Austria over the past few weeks. "If he wins, he'll win with the support of all the wrong people and on the crest of a wave of some of the most xenophobic and anti-semitic feelings this country has ever known."

Police detain hundreds in Santiago slum

Santiago (Reuters) — Chilean police, troops and security agents swept through Santiago slums yesterday for the second day in succession, rounding up hundreds of youths and men in a crackdown on guerrilla violence, witnesses said.

Journalists saw hundreds of men lined up on a football pitch, but were later forced to leave the area.

In a separate incident, a suspected guerrilla was shot in the neck in a gunbattle with security forces and was taken to hospital.

Bhai Gurdev Singh was the only one to be taken of the

five-man committee set up by the extremists to run the affairs of the Sikhs from the temple. The others have gone underground with a large number of other militants, evading police capture.

Police would have liked to capture Mr Harinder Singh Kahlon, leader of a breakaway Sikh student faction, but he too had slipped away.

"Our main objective was to flush out the terrorists and criminal elements who had taken refuge in the complex," Mr Ribeiro said yesterday, "and to hand it over to the

Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (the supreme temple management committee), its legal custodian, in that I have succeeded in achieving the object."

Mr Ribeiro said that one person had died and two were wounded during the seizure of the temple.

The police chief added that 300 people had been rounded up and were being screened at police headquarters.

It was mainly a police operation, but 25 companies of paramilitary police were also involved.

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Polish police crush Solidarity's May Day enthusiasm

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mounted riot police in Warsaw yesterday helped to break up a group of several hundred demonstrators who were chanting "Solidarity!" and "Ukraine, Ukraine!" in reference to the Soviet nuclear explosion.

A huge force of police, backed by water cannons and vehicles with flare and percussion grenade launchers, surrounded the church of St Stanislaw Kostka in northern Warsaw, where Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest murdered in 1984 by secret agents, is buried.

The authorities clearly wanted to prevent any Solidarity protest march towards the official May Day parade, which was being addressed in central Warsaw by General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader.

Speaking to the many thousands of Communist celebrants, the General, in civilian clothes and his customary tinted glasses, attacked the

Reagan Administration for its policy of economic sanctions against Poland, for having raided Libya, and for testing nuclear weapons in Nevada.

Strict security surrounded the official events. Residents in the square which accommodated the main rally had been warned not to approach their windows with any tool or kitchen implement that might resemble a gun even remotely.

Polish television cameras were careful to spotlight children taking part in the official rallies, perhaps to quash public fear that the radiation floating over Poland will harm the young. Many mothers are keeping their children at home.

At the St Stanislaw Kostka Church, the priest drew applause in a reference to the nuclear incident. "It's the authorities who are to blame for ecological disaster," he said. The sermon called for workers' rights on the work-

ers' holiday, and the priests led prayers for the Ukraine.

"Go in peace," said the elderly parish priest, Father Teofil Bogucki. "Do not be intimidated by those who are

all around us." The riot police had stopped just short of the church gates, a long line of perspex shields and visored helmets.

Once through that cordon, some hundreds of the congregation broke into chants such as "Hands off Afghanistan!" Coming up against a wall of police, the vanguard sat down in the street. But the mounted troops and other Zomo riot units soon scattered the would-be demonstrators.

Several people were detained, including two British journalists, who were later freed.

The show of force appears to have been a common response in the traditional Solidarity trouble spots. The government spokesman, Mr Jerzy Urban, said that there had been unsuccessful attempts to organize demonstrations in Nowa Huta, Poznan, Wroclaw and Bydgoszcz. He denied that police had used force, "except in individual cases". No tear gas or water jets had been used.

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Bangladesh politicians held as Ershad moves to curb poll opposition

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

The Bangladesh military Government yesterday arrested more than 25 leading opposition politicians — including a former Parliament Speaker — in a sweeping move to curb activists opposed to next week's parliamentary elections, police sources said.

Policemen in plain clothes took the former Speaker, Mr Mirza Choham Haiz, a close aide of the opposition leader, Begum Khaleda Zia, from his residence in western Dhaka, members of the family said.

The whereabouts of Begum Zia, who has been campaigning outside Dhaka against the polls, were not known yesterday, fuelling rumours that she had been arrested.

More than 40 killed in jungle war

From Our Correspondent Dhaka

More than 40 people were killed and at least 60 others wounded as tribal guerrillas fighting a secessionist jungle war in Bangladesh's south-eastern hill tracts attacked three villages and a bazaar with mortars and sub-machine-guns late on Tuesday night, Interior Ministry officials said yesterday.

They said that the guerrillas

were members of the Marxist-led Shantibahini (peace force), which has demanded independence for the Chittagong hill tracts, which are home to 500,000 Buddhist Chakma and Marma tribes, and account for almost 20 per cent of Bangladesh's land area.

The region's leading civil administrator, reached by telephone, said that more than 40 people had been missing since the raid. Many of the dead are

women and children.

The victims are landless Muslim Bengali farmers from the plains who were resettled in the hills by the Government, a step which triggered the secessionist movement in 1976.

The massacre came less than six months after President Ershad declared that the tribal war had died down and most of the guerrillas had surrendered.

India will not expel Tamil guerrillas

From a Correspondent Colombo

It is not possible to expel Tamil guerrillas from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu because of the public sympathy they enjoy, the Indian Minister of State, Mr P. Chidambaram, said yesterday.

Mr Chidambaram, who is heading an Indian Government delegation to Colombo in an attempt to resolve Sri Lanka's ethnic problem, told Mr Anura Bandaranaike, the Sri Lankan Opposition leader, that it would have been possible four years ago.

Mr Bandaranaike, the son of the former Prime Minister, Mrs Srimavo Bandaranaike, told the Indian minister that any proposed solution to the ethnic problem would have to be acceptable to the majority Sinhalese community.

Meanwhile, clashes between two of the main Tamil separatist groups have left at least 120 dead, according to the security forces.

Yesterday the town of Jaffna remained calm, but elsewhere fighting between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization (Telo) continued.

Government estimates on Wednesday night put the numbers killed at 95 Telo guerrillas and 26 Tigers.



King Bhumipol of Thailand greeting Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, and his wife Hannelore, who are en route to the Tokyo summit, at Ban Huan Hin, south of Bangkok.

Stroessner quick to quell protests

Asuncion (Reuters) — President Stroessner of Paraguay has ordered police to curb a budding opposition movement that is making one of the first challenges to his 32 years of strong-arm rule, opposition politicians say.

The police have used tear gas, water cannon, clubs and warning shots, leading to vio-

lent clashes that have ended the long-term political calm.

Government officials say that banned political parties and workers have been plotting against the Government in recent weeks by making unprecedented public protests for freedom and higher pay.

The Government is said to be particularly suspicious of

the US Ambassador, Mr Clyde Taylor, who has met leaders of the banned parties and of the Catholic Church.

Opposition leaders say they fear that an attack on Tuesday on a leading radio station by an armed group of followers of General Stroessner, aged 73, could herald the appearance of paramilitary groups.

Wife told captives in Qatar are safe

Bahrain (Reuters) — A Briton held with 28 other foreigners in Qatar in a dispute with Bahrain over a Gulf coral reef telephoned his wife here yesterday to say that he and the other captives were safe.

Twenty-four Filipinos, two Thais, two Britons and a Dutchman were seized on Saturday by Qatari troops who landed in helicopters on Facht al-Dibel reef, where they were preparing the ground for a Bahraini coastguard base.

Mrs Susan Thompson said yesterday that her husband, Richard, had telephoned from Qatar saying that all the prisoners were safe and were being well treated. None had been hurt in the Qatar raid, during which shots were fired towards them and at a nearby tugboat.

He had not known when they might be freed, she added, but diplomatic sources say that their release is believed to be imminent.

They say that the British Ambassador in Doha, Mr Julian Walker, was told yesterday that he could visit Mr Thompson and the other Britons, Mr Brian Davies, for the first time. It is not known if he has yet done so.

Diplomatic sources say that the Qataris have now withdrawn from the reef, but there is no official confirmation from either side in the dispute.

The EEC budget

Spending may hit £23bn ceiling

From A Correspondent, Brussels

Mr Henning Christophersen, the European Budget Commissioner, has proposed a £1.36 billion supplementary budget to bail the EEC out of its financial difficulties in 1986.

The proposal would take the Community's spending to £23.25 billion, which is the ceiling forced on it by the limit of 1.4 per cent of national VAT contributions to EEC revenues.

Mr Christophersen said that his proposal used up all the available funds, but did not breach the 1.4 per cent limit as some officials had feared might be likely.

The extra spending was caused in part by an overpayment by Britain in 1985, which meant that the Community was legally bound to refund £325 million to the United Kingdom.

Spain and Portugal would also get £94.25 million, Mr Christophersen said. This was in relief of their contributions to the EEC in their first year of membership.

But he gave a warning that the funds remaining within the ceiling did not allow him to budget for the full £910 million in additional agricultural spending or the £759 million in extra spending on the Community's structural policies, which unforeseen ex-

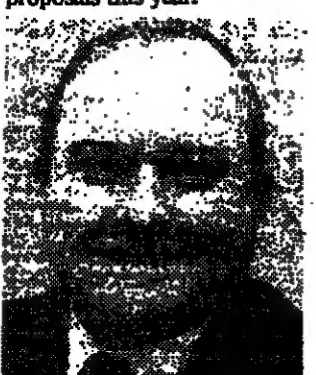
penditure so far this year and projected needs for the rest of the year demanded.

He was therefore proposing to allocate only £594 million to farm spending, and he said what remained would be directed to the structural fund.

Mr Christophersen warned that his proposal would mean spending cuts.

Meanwhile, the Commission has also proposed a £23.8 billion budget for 1987, setting aside just under £15 billion for farm spending.

In order to stay within financial restrictions for 1987 agreed by the finance ministers earlier this week, Mr Christophersen said that governments would have to find the money for both his budget proposals this year.



Mr Christophersen: Wants no breach of VAT limit

Green currencies key to farm compromise

From Richard Owen, Luxembourg

The marathon EEC farm price-fixing round this month and the crisis over the 1986 budget have focused attention on the use of green currencies, the European Monetary System (EMS) and complex agricultural arrangements.

Behind the impenetrable EEC jargon lie realities which can make or break European farmers, and especially those whose profit margin is small and whose overheads are increasing.

The "green" currencies, including the green pound, have softened the impact of rising costs in the countryside during the past decade, though many European farmers still complain that the prices they obtain for their produce are not high enough.

Until the early 1970s farm prices were calculated in national currencies in Europe, but farmers suffered from exchange rate fluctuations. As a stopgap measure, the EEC compensates countries with weak currencies and protects them from fluctuations through a system known as Monetary Compensatory Amounts, or MCAs.

But the long-term answer lies in the green currencies, which are related to the ECU (European Currency Unit) and are fixed regardless of exchange rate changes. The ECU is itself based on a basket of European currencies.

The green currencies are fixed whenever the EMS is realigned, the most recent being at Oostmarsum in Holland on April 6. The French franc was devalued by 3 per cent at Oostmarsum, and the Deutsche mark, the strongest EMS currency, revalued by 3 per cent. (Sterling is not a member of the EMS, which was formed in 1979.)

As a consequence, at the farm ministers' meeting last Friday green currencies were also devalued, with the exception of the green mark and the Dutch guilder, which is linked to the mark.

This reduces the impact of other farm measures taken on Friday, and above all the freeze on agricultural prices. In other words, although French farmers, for example, did not get the price rises they were seeking for their products, they will now be the less receive more in reality because the green franc has been devalued.

This was the key to the farm price compromise package, and to the agreement on the controversial cereals tax, to which there had been strong opposition.

The farm ministers dodged some of the key problems by putting on one side a Commission proposal for phasing out beef and other livestock subsidies, and avoided making a cut in butter prices.

But the cereals production tax, known as the co-responsibility levy, was adopted in the teeth of West German opposition.

The 3 per cent tax will be paid by cereal farmers whether they sell their products to intervention stores (the so-called food mountains), to cereal processors or on the open market. The tax revenue will then be used to pay for export subsidies to dispose of surpluses.

The term "co-responsibility" is supposed to impress on the farmer that he, too, has to help to pay for surplus disposal.

The loophole, however, is that the cereals tax does not apply to grain which is consumed "locally", which appears to mean either on the farm concerned or on neighbouring farms. And that is likely to happen increasingly if cereal farmers wish to avoid paying the new tax.

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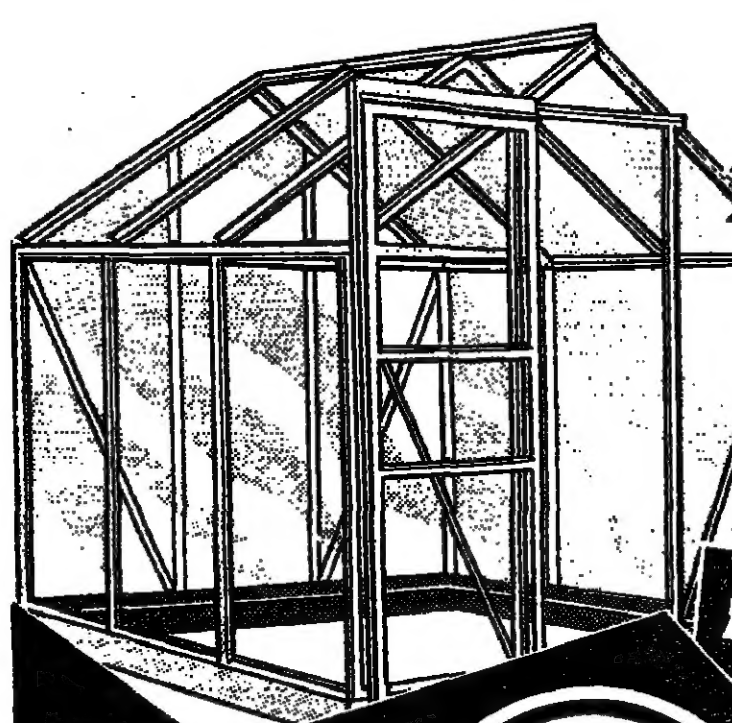
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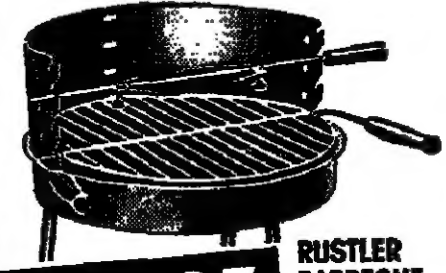
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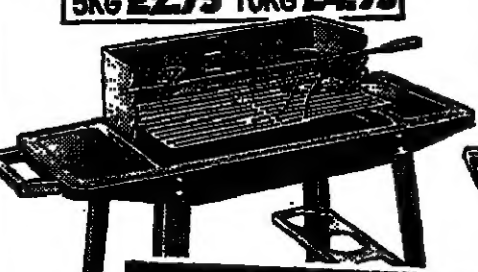
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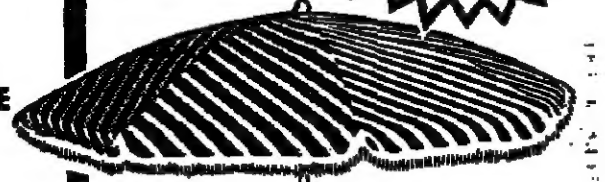
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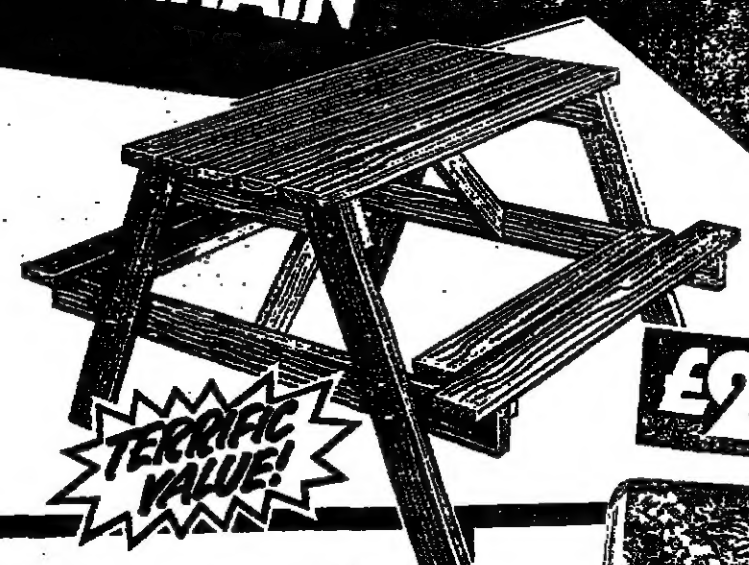
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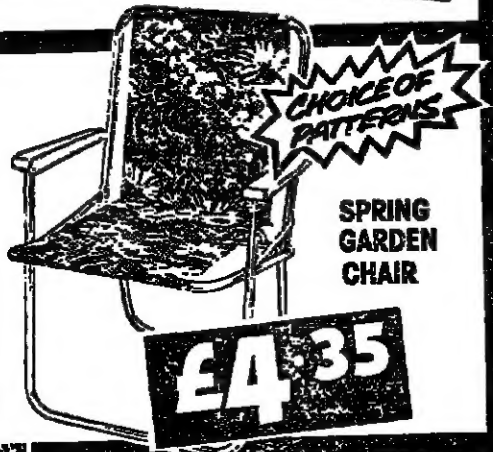
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SPECTRUM

Gamblers with the City at stake

A £2 billion building project is set to transform London's rejuvenated docklands into the West's financial capital. But as Bryan Appleyard reports, stunned experts in the City are claiming that the plan could turn out to be a developer's graveyard

As you enter Michael Cassidy's 20th-floor flat in the Barbican he will be saying something like: "Well, of course Canary Wharf is outside our area so we have no real right to comment". By the time you reach the living room, about 15 seconds later, he will be saying: "I can't imagine what they base their estimates on, we don't need that much office space".

Displaying similar inconsistency from a service apartment in Mayfair is G. Ware Travelstead, from Kentucky — "I don't see what the City's problem is... but, and you can quote me on this, their motives are transparent".

Cassidy is the chairman of the City of London Planning Committee and Travelstead is the head of a consortium which has proposed the biggest property development the world has ever seen. They are the two principal players in a poker game worth £2,000 million. It is, you might say, the only game in town and it is not being played according to Hoyle.

Canary Wharf is an artificial peninsula about the length of The

was that, in a country which had grown accustomed to thinking small, this all seemed like some sort of mistake, a kind of fantasy. But it all makes perfect sense if you remember that through Canary Wharf runs the Greenwich Meridian — 0 degrees of longitude — and that there is currently more hot cash slushing around the globe than ever before.

After 1973, the year of the Arab oil price rises, money changed. Huge surpluses were generated in the Middle East and the western banking system had to adjust to find ways of recycling these funds. As the economies recovered, the system grew more sophisticated in providing more efficient ways of making more money out of money.

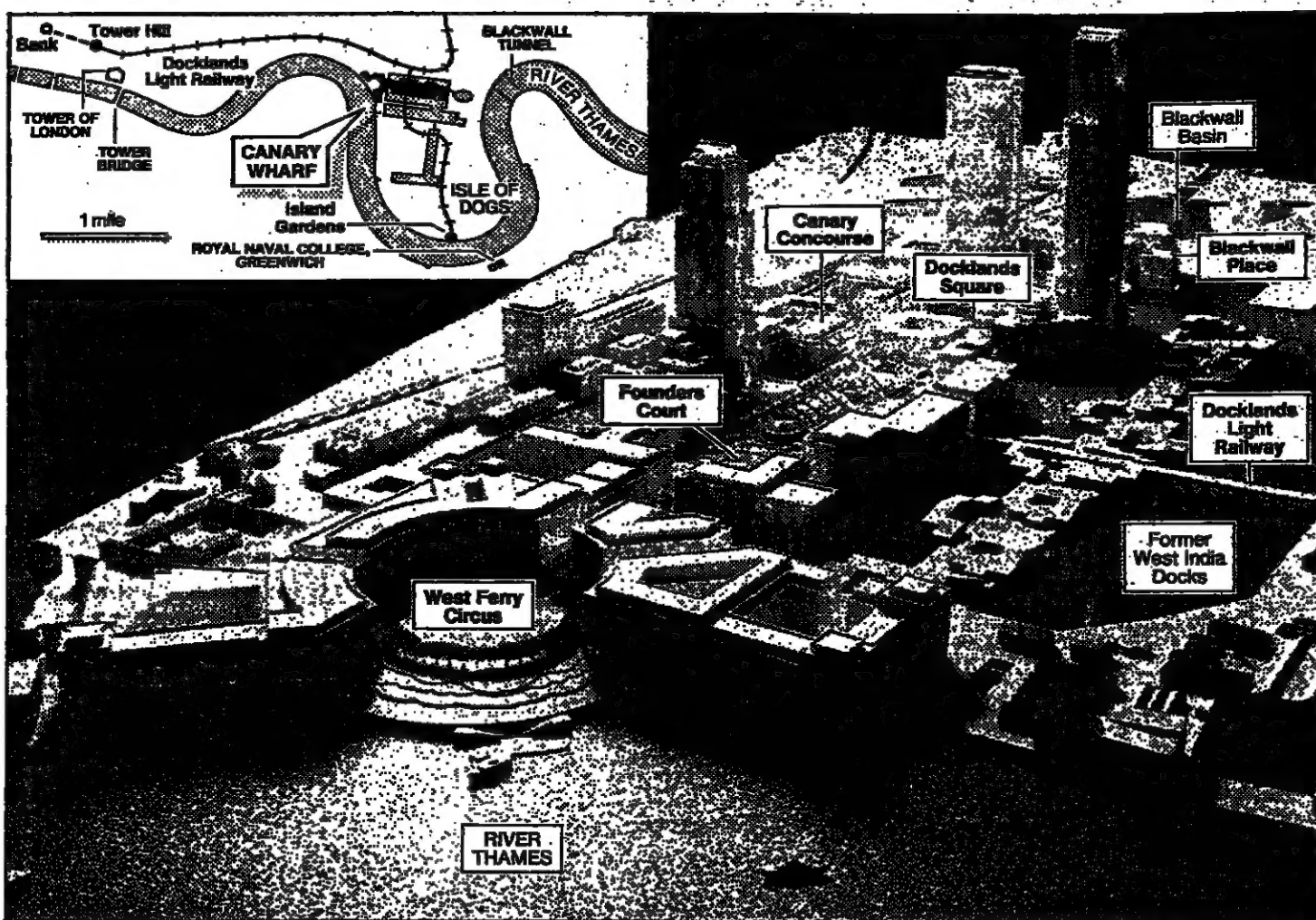
In 1976 the Chicago Financial Futures Market was born and, since then, financial services have been exploding in all directions. Vast, open-plan floor areas are now required to provide instant visual and personal communication between dealers. In addition, massive computer and air-conditioning requirements mean that the floors have to be deeper — 15ft against 11 or 12ft in the usual office building. These demands render almost every existing office building obsolete.

The significance of the Greenwich Meridian is that it indicates Britain's ancient role as the centre of the world. Today this makes sense because we lie in a time zone between New York and Tokyo. The new financial markets have to be in action 24 hours a day, so a centre in Western Europe is essential. With its language and a history as a financial capital, London is the obvious choice.

"London", says Scott Lowry, Travelstead's second in command, "would have to work pretty hard to destroy itself as a financial centre".

But when a handful of banks began looking for new sites in the City four years ago, they found nothing, even though they were looking for only 1.2 million sq. ft. The alternative was docklands but, Travelstead says, it would not have been an economic move for that amount of space as the infrastructure costs — transport, electricity and so on — would be too great.

So Canary Wharf was born. The overall plan, put together by the banks — and including some 20 schemes — is so big that it justifies its own telephone, electricity, water and rail systems. Potential customers will buy a freehold and have their own building designed, although it will have to meet with the approval of the consortium's architects, Skidmore, Owings and



Super-centre: a model of the proposed project for London's Canary Wharf — the biggest property development in the world

Merrill, the biggest firm of its kind in the world.

No planning permission is necessary as the area is designated as an enterprise zone and customers will get a six-year rates holiday as part of the package. And the promised benefits seem staggering: once the holiday ended, the rate income for the borough of Tower Hamlets would double instantly; 57,000 permanent new jobs would be created; the Chancellor would receive £340 million extra in tax and national insurance, and so on.

The figures were spewed gleefully from the Henley Centre, which investigated the scheme. They were commissioned by Travelstead but were, he says,

strictly independent. Even if they were 30 per cent out with their numbers, however, the whole package would still look like an offer that nobody in charge of a decaying borough, declining economy and obsolete building stock could seriously refuse.

Tower Hamlets bought the idea, as did the Government, and the LDDC felt it was about to achieve some kind of institutional apotheosis. That left the City and the environmentalists jointly outraged and irritatingly lacking in bureaucratic weapons.

The environmentalist case was that the towers were far too big and ruined the view from Greenwich Park over Inigo Jones's masterpiece, the Queen's House,

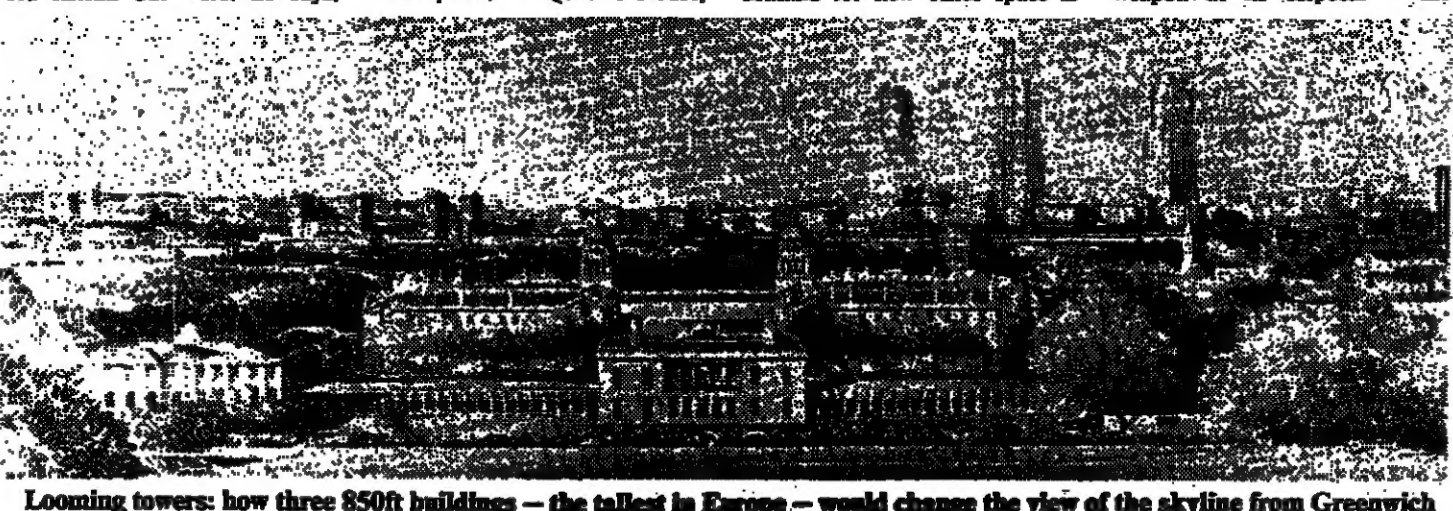
and Wren's somewhat feebler Royal Naval College. Travelstead obligingly shifted one of the towers to the right, but he need hardly have bothered as that part of the environmentalist case was dreadfully weak anyway. Nobody can seriously claim that the existing view from Greenwich Park, a focusless, meandering mass of unattractive buildings, is anything but drab.

Canary Wharf does not, however, look like being great architecture. The architects have come up with a safe rather than exciting assembly of buildings.

The City argues that the whole scheme is a white elephant. City researchers show that immediate demand for new office space is

barely a quarter of what Travelstead expects to sell, and Canary Wharf could knock the bottom out of the London commercial property market and leave many offices empty. The City believes its existing 69 million sq. ft. in the Square Mile needs to be increased only gradually. Indeed, last year it produced a massive relaxation of planning controls which could allow for another 20 million sq. ft. The City swears it was a coincidence that this was done just as Canary Wharf appeared.

But even with a Tory Government, the City has no friends on this issue. So its resistance has been manifested via the only weapon at its disposal — the



Looming towers: how three 850ft buildings — the tallest in Europe — would change the view of the skyline from Greenwich

'I don't see what the City's problem is'

G. Ware Travelstead

Docklands Railway. Originally this ran only as far as Tower Hill but, for Travelstead, it was vital that it ran as far as Bank — in fact, no Bank link, no Canary Wharf. The City thought the extension should run through to Cannon Street and the rail has been steadily knocked back and forward. The Railway Bill has still to go through Parliament and remains the only obstacle left.

The City knows it will lose eventually, but insists that its engineering and planning objections to the railway scheme are genuine and not inspired simply by enmity towards Canary Wharf.

Travelstead expects the railway to be virtually wrapped up by June and to be on site by July. He will tolerate delays until October but, after that, he goes elsewhere. More bluff, says the City, which is convinced that the whole of Canary Wharf will never be built — that Travelstead is using the scale of the plan to bludgeon through a much smaller deal. In the Barbican Cassidy looks knowing, in Mayfair the Kentuckian sports in derision.

Even if the City is right, even if the new financial markets collapse overnight, the Canary Wharf scheme has been a pre-emptive strike at deeply entrenched British attitudes. On the environmental side it has exposed the naggy misconceptions held by many conservationists. The fact is that London as a whole would benefit from some buildings of real scale. It has also stated the ultimate question for conservationists — do you want the future or not?

In political terms it has swamped a Labour area with capitalism on such a scale that the party has been unable to raise so much as an ideology in protest. It has also driven a neat wedge between the City and its traditional friends at Westminster.

Perhaps most lasting of all, it has challenged the existence of the City, an institution whose medieval identity has survived thus far because of the need by the inhabitants of financial trading centres to meet, have lunch and impress each other. But, with the highest rents in the world and an appallingly low office stock compared to New York or Tokyo, something has to change.

The insurance brokers have already moved outside its eastern boundary — Canary Wharf marks the far end of the corridor they have begun to build. The old artificial line of a medieval local authority has been breached — if Canary Wharf goes ahead the remainder of that line will begin, slowly and silently, to vanish. Neither of them will admit it, but Travelstead is killing the City, and Cassidy knows it.

(Times Newspapers Ltd, 1986)

A future with a great past behind it

I was a silly idea. Only the BBC could suppose that there was a TV audience, its supper still on its stomach, which would settle down once a week to an evening dose of science and technology by the name of *Tomorrow's World*.

But the audience has settled down once a week, barring holiday breaks, for 21 years now, and we who doubted it would run six months can only pause in awe before its durability and its viewing figures. They now run to 10 to 12 million, which would be a tidy enough sum for a soap, and which puts to shame the frailty of the faith of its founders all those years ago.

The programme always goes out live — it makes for sharp presentation — but you live on the edge of public disaster. Two decades of producers and presenters have watched nu-

merous demonstrations fold up and die on them. For the audience, it's half of the fun.

We all knew the working title was hopelessly wooden for the people we were trying to enthuse. But we had reached the ultimate deadline. *Radio Times* press day, and on the last evening I settled down in our living room with my wife and some wine, determined not to stir until we could send our equivalent of a puff of smoke up the chimney.

At midnight, from a pile of scratched out suggestions on crumpled paper, we rescued two random words: "world" and "tomorrow". Other people have now appropriated them for their products, even for their shops, which we take to be success. The music stuck too, for a good many years after we paid John Dankworth £25 to write it. There was good reason for this parsimony; the

Glyn Jones, the first producer of *Tomorrow's World*, reviews 21 years of success for television's showcase of scientific things to come

overall budget of £2,000 for each programme had been curiously cut by the BBC to £1,500 — enough, perhaps, in 1965 to field one production team for one day for one item.

Perhaps the optimistic chime in that title rings a little hollow today when we know that science does not inevitably deliver a saner society. But it seemed exactly right for the sunnier Sixties, when we thought we would all be warmed by the white heat of the technological revolution (the need for which grows more, not less, intense in Britain).

was a sequence though, in programme six, in which a Texan in a station gazed across the dark waters of the east coast and said the waves would soon shimmer with the flames of the production platform. Poor man, I think we laughed him off.

Item one of programme one celebrated the arrival of the factory robot, and item two came live from a Romford school which raised £13,000 by its own efforts to buy a computer — the first school so equipped in Britain.

Often, *Tomorrow's World* got admirably near the nail, even if it seldom hit it quite on the head. Right about the micro, it failed to foresee the surge of cheap computing power. Early in the field of spare-part surgery, it did not — could not — predict the amazing discoveries of immunology which have meant that the bits came from human beings, not from the factory.

Evergreen was the promise of alternative transport, from the electric car to the Sinclair CS, but ever more firmly sits the internal combustion engine before your driving seat.

Difficult it may be to pick a winner, but to time its arrival correctly is even more fraught. Twenty years ago atomic fusion were to be the nuclear energy wonders of 20 years hence. Today they are still 20 years away — perhaps even 30. The expectations of the search are just as exciting as the discoveries, and sometimes more rewarding. The programme still innovates within itself. The present editor, Richard Reisz, has decided on a regular spot for today's world — a few minutes devoted to each week's science news.

Perhaps *Tomorrow's World* is really about an attitude — the acceptance of the late 20th century culture of change. Science-struck school children whose chapter and verse for their less literate parents and teachers formed the contents of last night's programme would probably agree. Martin Freeth says: "It's rubbed off on millions over the years. It must make for a more science-literate society. We didn't often get it exactly right, but we're still trying. If you can do that for 12 million people in prime time, it's worthwhile."

(Times Newspapers Ltd, 1986)

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 940

ACROSS

1 Population count

5 Bury (6)

8 Afternoon beverage

9 Garlic sausage (6)

10 Whistle (6)

11 Dish list (4)

12 Capability (4)

14 Restore (6)

17 Decade (6)

19 Opening (8)

22 Canter (4)

24 Big game hunt (6)

25 Farmland (6)

26 Joy (3)

27 Grudging (6)

28 Snigger (6)

DOWN

2 Rub out (5)

3 Cook's blade (7)

4 Rider's footpiece (7)

5 Contests (5)

6 Trunk (5)

7 Illegal (7)

13 Fool (3)

15 Make amends for (7)

16 Joined (7)

17 Smart (7)

18 Leaf sprays (7)

20 Loud cries (5)

21 Bring together (5)

23 Lével seeds (5)

24 Ugh

SOLUTION TO CONCISE NO 939

ACROSS: 1 Impression 9 Tar 10 Temperate 11 Miser 13 Com-

plete 16 Certain 19 Cross 22 Hammer 24 Dab 26 Revolutionary

DOWN: 1 Victim 2 Stores 3 Cyrena 4 Comic 5 Pans 6 Vase 7

Annex 12 Ire 14 Macarons 15 Tin 16 Cobble 17 Remove 18 No-

gise 20 Ordeal 21 Embryo 23 Ugh

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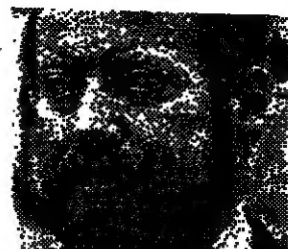
Then and now: Former *Tomorrow's World* presenter Raymond Baxter and today's team — Maggie Philbin, Peter Macann, Judith Haza and Howard Stubbard

SATURDAY

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Food for thought

Clement Freud, politician, food writer and gourmet, finds calm professionalism behind the scenes in the kitchens of *The Times* restaurant of the year



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Emma Nicholson leads a team of career women committed to political advancement

The most high flyer

The ladies of the West Oxfordshire Conservative Association seemed to have enjoyed their morning. "She was superb. Not a sign of nerves. Facts at her finger tips. Never at a loss for an answer. Good strong stuff."

An address from the Conservative Party Leader? You would have thought so. But no, it appears that the Tory Party has at least one other strong, fluent, female striker waiting on the touchline. They had just had a taste of the Emma Nicholson phenomenon.

By some quirk of democratic fate Miss Nicholson is not actually a Member of Parliament at the moment. This should be put right at the next general election, when she takes over in Devon West and Torridge from Sir Peter Mills, who is retiring, having gained a 12,000 majority at the last election. Meanwhile she is nursing that gentle trout stream constituency in her personal wholehearted manner. This not only involves a regular programme of coffee mornings and house-to-house visits, followed up by personal letters throughout the whole constituency, it also means that she can be found singing twice every Sunday in the Hatherleigh church choir.

But there is more. After the last election Mrs Thatcher and Willie Whitelaw brought her into central office as a party vice-chairman in charge of women. She has set herself the task of changing the face of Tory womanhood. No more pretty hats and backroom slavery. She wants to recruit what she calls "the high flyers". She is in direct opposition to the high priestess of upwardly mobile young people, Lynne Franks, who is going after the same group for the Labour Party. When Emma Nicholson arrived, there were eight women on the central office candidates list. Now there are 90.

Arranging to meet her is like organizing a rendezvous with Halley's Comet. There is a patient male on her staff who kept passing me

position fixes; she was in the Isle of Wight one moment, then Devon, then London "to brief Norman" and run a High Flyers conference. Then it was Scotland for five speeches, back for a speech in Douglas Hurd's constituency and then on to Cornwall to speak in Truro. I ought to see her soon, he advised, for the Turkish Prime Minister had invited her to see what they were doing about the advancement of women in Istanbul and Dr Hastings Banda wanted her in Malawi for the anniversary of their independence. Her crowded schedule is also a reason for her single status. "Lots of people have wanted to marry me but I've always been too busy."

Eventually I found myself in charge of the plastic carrier bag she uses for her overnight things ("I suppose I should get a suitcase") as we went off to have lunch at the home of her 84-year-old father, Sir Godfrey Nicholson, who was himself an MP for 34 years. As Sir Godfrey conducted me to the stables to tap one of his barrels of home-made cider (brewing habits die hard for a former chairman of Nicholson's Gin), he delivered his own judgement on his daughter. "She is the most remarkable woman I know."

Just how remarkable was gradually revealed. She is a sturdy, handsome 44, a long-distance walker and a cross-country skier. She spent her early life aiming to be a professional musician. She was school organist, head of the choir and deputy head girl at St Mary's, Warrage. At the Royal Academy of Music she sailed through her piano, cello and singing exams, but something was wrong. "I just wasn't making the progress that was expected of me."

Suddenly, the reason for that became all too clear. She had been seriously deaf since birth. For the early part of her life she had missed much of what was happening around her. Medical technology has now removed this drawback.

With her musical career in ruins, she decided, in 1963, that the coming thing was computers. ICL, who were looking for mathematicians, turned her down for their computer course. Her knowledge of Greek, Latin, Aramaic, Hebrew and music did not impress the deputy personnel officer. The Emma Nicholson persuasion changed that.

There followed 10 years in computer and general management consultancy work. "It was a wonderful grounding in business. Before I could write a programme for a company I had to find out how it worked." In 1973 she made another radical career switch, joining the Save The Children Fund as director of fund-raising. When she arrived, the fund's annual income was £3.3 million. When she left to tackle full-time politics last year it was £42 million.

"I saw, going round with my father as a child, that politics was the easiest way of getting things changed, that the House of Commons was the place where decisions were taken which affect people's lives. And I saw an awful lot of things I wanted changed."

Adopted for an industrial constituency, Blith in Northumberland, she admits "I didn't really know how to do it". She told me to spend every Saturday afternoon in the housing estates. So I did - every Saturday afternoon for three and a half years. It worked. At the 1979 election I got the highest ever Conservative vote in Blith. The Liberal lost his deposit, which was fun.

She was left without a constituency at the last election because, as she puts it, "I tried above my level". She was offered three hopeless seats but no one offered her a winnable one. This may have been the party's gain in the long run, for she has been able to concentrate on rallying the New Woman to the cause.

"From my experience in industry, women who achieve success are exceptionally able people, with clear judgement and well organized lives.

The skills of these women are needed in politics. The qualities which make a woman bank manager are qualities which should inform government and help put together legislation."

By visiting anything between six and a dozen constituencies every week she has amassed a collection of names and instructed all her contacts "to go out and find other people like you". She now heads a huge female network of upwardly mobile talent. "I'm trying to tap their support without wrecking their professional lives. Our High Flyers conference, for instance, was deliberately timed for 10.30am-3.30pm to allow the conscientious women to do a day's work before and afterwards."

The trouble, she says, is they are so easily discouraged. "You have to keep bouncing back in politics. Women aren't very good at that. Just the other day one of my women was turned down for a seat which she was tipped to get. She rang me up and said: 'That's it, Emma. I'm taking my name off the list.' It took me 20 minutes on the telephone, followed by a letter, followed by a visit, to stop her. After all, I tell them, I know what it's like. I have had 35 interviews for seats myself."

She has a certain scorn for sociology - "woolly thinking" - and for "under-performing teachers". She believes in the central management of education and higher pay for teachers based on an assessment of their work. "It is under-performing teachers who are blocking this development. In industry we welcomed work assessment as a way towards advancement, more pay, better opportunities."

"Don't think I am doing all this without support from the very top", she says. "I often send papers to Mrs Thatcher, and follow them up with a visit. We don't always agree, but that's the fun of politics. I enjoy our sessions."

Pearson Phillips

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Why love letters tell only half the story

It's been going on for a week now, so we must all know that *canum* was the late Edward VIII's private word, meaning "little and pathetic and sweet"; that he and Mrs Simpson had a code for themselves, "WE", meaning "Wallis and Edward"; and that he ended his letters "God Bless WE". We know about the pleasures, the bursting hearts, the admiring maternal remarks and the sheer confidence of the married woman who called the Prince of Wales a "nice boy" and reckoned that she and he and poor old Ernest could happily rub along together, with a bit of tact, even when the Prince's outpourings had become mollen.

We have, courtesy of Michael Bloch's book (serialized in the *Daily Mail*), opened a few dozen ancient letters addressed to "The King, The Fort, Sunningdale, Angleterre", and a few more from the royal pen itself. We have pored over the coy and unpunctuated contents. And it has all been pretty uncomfortable, even when loosely disguised as "history".

Oddly enough, it was all the more embarrassing because these two avid lovers - dust and ashes, now, beyond suffering from history's verdict - were in fact notable for nothing at all, other than their love and its constitutional results.

Dearest COOCHIE -

Instead of being a sidelight on distinguished lives, the letters represent the whole interest of them. If you read the absurd love-letters of, for instance, Chopin (he wrote to Delphine Potocka, outlining his slightly insulting theory that the act of love meant that he lost his ability to compose preludes), you can at least dismiss them with an indulgent laugh as the weak and intimate moments of a genius. With Wallis and Edward, however, there is nothing but the weakness, nothing but the relationship to think about. And so they become defined by nothing but their *canums* and trembling hearts and poor-little-WE notes.

They diminish, before our very eyes, into banality. The Duchess, we know, wanted the letters published; but would her "David" really have desired, as his brief monarchy passed into dimmest memory, that we should remember him for these boyish ramblings and not for the calm, sad, public dignity of his abdication broadcast?

This is not to say that the

The billets-doux of Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson distort their memory, argues Libby Purves

Windsor letters were any more... well, *canum*, to use a kind word, than anybody else's. They were poorly expressed and repetitive, but no more so than you would expect of that brittle cocktail generation. Neither of them was a Keats, but then, how many of us are? The great majority of love-letters, exposed to the common gaze, would probably look banal, affected and sickening, just like the Valentine messages to Tiggy-pooch, Rumpletummy and Snoggin the Snog, published annually in the newspapers.

Equally, all love-letters, including the WE correspondence, have flashes of genuinely moving, universal poetry, usually well buried in a load of indecipherable references to Easter Bunnies and Tiggers (Winnie the Pooh has a lot to answer for). No, it is not a personal slight upon the Duke and Duchess to wonder, reading the letters, whether it was really worth a scholarly, meticulous chap's while to spend years typing them out and arranging them for the printed page. History? Bunk.

Love-letters prove nothing but love. The only excuse for printing them is if the writers have the rare gift of disciplining their outpourings; which means, generally, that they are professionals. Look at Keats: he scornfully rejected the sentimental finesse in the letters of Rousseau; as he wrote to Fanny Brawne: "The common gossiping of washerwomen must be less disgusting than the continual and eternal fence and attack of Rousseau and these sublime penitents... Thank God I am born in England with our own great men before my eyes. Thank God that you are fair and can love me without being letter-written and sentimentalized into it."

And yet he himself, in a more straightforward and English way, was writing literary and love-letters. He couldn't help it. He was a poet. "Every hour I am more and more concentrated in you; everything else tastes like chaff in my mouth." Two good, fresh metaphors in one apparently spontaneous sentence; well worth reading.

Or take James Joyce's missives to Nora Barnacle: he couldn't avoid comedy, even at his mistress's feet: "I offended two men today by leaving them coolly. I wanted to hear your voice, not theirs. When I am with you I leave aside my contemptuous, suspicious nature. I wish I felt your head on my shoulder. I think I will go to bed."

The other sort of good love-letters are those written in a more formal age, when picking up a pen meant automatic self-discipline. I suppose paper was in shorter supply. The letters between the condemned Royalist Mr Penruddock and his wife, in 1655, are among the jewels of Elizabethan Jane Howard's anthology of these things. Mrs Penruddock is: "Your sad but constant wife, even to love your ashes when dead... Your children beg your blessing, and present their duties to you" and he replies: "Do not think meanly of me, that I give way to grief now in private, when I see my sand run so fast... I thank you for all your goodness to me."

In restraint is strength; but this is a lesson that modern lovers are incapable of learning. From the first pubescent moment when we commit to pink paper the words "Dearest darling best sweetest beloved Angel sweetheart Ro. I couldn't sleep all NITE truly darling", we reject reason and grammar. If we didn't, we'd think ourselves calculating and cold.

I can tell you, though, that future generations are not going to be deprived of material for their anthologies of 1980s billets-doux. Rather to my surprise, every single woman I asked, and two of the men, admitted to having a

I don't feel COOCHIE anymore

heard of letters, the telephone has not killed the love-letter. As one successful and beautiful married woman said: "I believed totally and utterly in every one, while it was going on, and the letters commemorate it." Another said that she felt better for knowing she had a whole suitcase full of compliments in the attic, to draw on when marital grunts from behind the newspaper made her feel neglected. And a third had a literary motive: not to publish, but merely to show respect for the written word. "I keep them all, forever. It isn't that none of my relationships have ever ended bitterly, but if it was a bad relationship there are probably no letters."

As for the men, I must admit that the two who keep them are both gay. I was quite relieved, really, and so were my boarding female friends: all of us suddenly awoke to the realization that if we had kept his, he might have ours, somewhere. Thank God we signed them all Tiggy-Pooch and Rumpletummy. Nobody need ever know.

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The big sleep cure for jetlag

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Statesmen, when they travel, should always bear in mind the fate of the late Lord George-Brown who was so disorientated by jetlag, or a failure to observe the disciplines of long-distance travel, that his diplomatic mission had to be abandoned and Her Majesty's Foreign Secretary returned to Britain early to recover. White House advisers have made it plain that nothing so ignominious will overtake their President Reagan, currently on a tour of south-east Asia.

While on board his plane he will eschew alcohol, and drink up to five pints of fluid a day to keep him hydrated. He will eat easily digested carbohydrates in the morning, have plenty of tea and coffee in the afternoon, and proteins for supper. His journey will be spaced out with several stops to allow his natural time clock, "the circadian rhythm" which governs the body's physiological systems, to adjust to crossing several time zones.

Ideally there should be a 24-hour pause for each zone, but few schedules allow this. Sleep is all important, and British physicians usually recommend a short-acting benzodiazepine (temazepam, Normison or Euhypnos) in order to ensure a night's rest.

If the President is a catnapper so much the better, for the very deep sleep of the catnap provides some protection against jetlag. On arrival, after a cheery wave all round, the traveller should be allowed to have a good night's sleep before having to face the world.

Dr Frank Preston, medical adviser to British Airways, is not certain if this regime, or any other, will prevent jetlag. He said: "Travellers must realize that the body shuts up shop from time to time. The digestion, colonic activity, the pancreas and the stomach, all close down for the night from

midnight to six and it takes time for the system to adjust to a time change.

"People shouldn't eat when the body is closed, but I suppose that if they have to, carbohydrate would be easier to absorb."

Hormone therapy

Hormone replacement therapy has advanced since the Somerset Maugham era when discussion of it conjured up an image of furtive trips to Swiss clinics and hints of monkey gland extracts. Some of the quackery which surrounded it in the 1930s may account for the reluctance of GPs to talk about it with post-menopausal patients - a reluctance which condenses many post-menopausal women to unnecessary oestropos (thinning of the bones) which can result in fatal fractures and coronary heart disease.

Dr Malcolm Pike, of the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, talking recently at the BMA annual scientific meeting, helped to redress the balance. The use of hormones would cut the death rate from fractures in older women by 60 per cent, and the death rate from coronary heart disease - rapidly becoming a scourge in women as well as men - by half.

However, there is a risk, and Dr Pike told the conference that it is up to a patient's doctor to weigh the benefits against the increased chance of developing cancer of the breast or lining of the womb. Both have been associated with oestrogen therapy.

It is hoped that the increased incidence of cancer of the uterus will be greatly reduced if not entirely removed

by the use of combined oestrogen-progestosterone preparations. Many women have long been aware of the sense of well being, the lifting of menopausal symptoms and the restoration of sexual vitality which follows hormone therapy.

Doctors have welcomed its effect on the heart, the arteries and bones, but it is only recently that it has been shown to have a dramatic effect in cutting the number who develop rheumatoid arthritis. Studies have shown that hormone replacement therapy reduces the number of cases in old women by 80 per cent.

Radiation concern

If the wind changes to the east and the radioactive cloud from Russia is blown across Britain some increase in background radiation is inevitable so that somebody, somewhere, in the country will suffer probably many years hence as a result of the accident in Chernobyl.

Twenty or thirty years hence patients in eastern Europe will be admitted to hospital with leukaemia or carcinoma of the thyroid and babies will be born with abnormalities; but it will always remain impossible to attribute particular cases to it.

Fortunately the dose which may fall in this country will be far too small to affect most people's health and the Government will increase its monitoring programme to check that background radiation remains at its allegedly "safe level".

In Poland where the radioactive fallout has reached worrying levels other precautions will have to be taken. In areas where people have been sub-

jected to fallout the skin must be washed down, by showering rather than bathing. The Americans recommend dousing patients with water to which has been added a special solution, Radiac Wash, which helps to prevent absorption through the skin.

If radioactive levels have increased patients are given a dose of the so-called "iodine remedy" Lugol's solution of iodine. All Polish children have been given either Lugol's solution or a saturated solution of potassium iodide so that thyroid uptake of iodine has been blocked for at least several days.

If the dose is known to have been large a diuresis by taking "water pills" is recommended. Patients who have been subjected to radioactive fallout should be monitored by using hand meters and their urine analysed for non-gamma emitting radioisotopes. The intrepid traveller to eastern Europe would be well advised to avoid fresh milk and green vegetables.

Toys noise danger

It seems that gun battles in the nursery may affect the hearing of young children just as their grandfathers would have been battered by the rifle ranges of Caterick or Caterham, or teenage brothers and sisters by the noisy disco.

A group of doctors in Sweden has recently produced evidence that babies' hearing, which is particularly sensitive, may suffer lasting loss when exposed to levels of noise from their toys - levels which may not in any way be trying to adults. Particularly damaging are percussion noises such as might be made by toy guns or fireworks.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

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THE TIMES DIARY

Disastrous investments

Where there's nuclear much there's brass, it seems. American investors, always ready to make a quick buck out of a disaster, have piled their money into a company called Nuclear Support Systems which, among other things, helps repair stricken nuclear power plants. Its shares have risen a dollar, to \$21.50. Other areas that speculators have moved into include potato futures (could be blighted), vodka producers (in case the clouds spread to Poland), iodine manufacturers (for the stricken children) and tractor makers (for ploughing the killing fields). This must be what they call caring capitalism.

Red shoes

Members of the London Festival Ballet, due to dance in the Russian city of Vilnius, only 200 miles from the main body of nuclear fallout, are waiting on tenterhooks for confirmation of their historic trip. Yesterday the Foreign Office and the British Council, which arranged the three-week tour with the Soviet Concert Agency, were deciding whether it was safe to go ahead. "The last British ballet company tour of the USSR was 25 years ago, and we would all be disappointed if it was called off," said an LFB spokesman. Due to leave this weekend, they will also be dancing in Moscow and Leningrad.

Meanwhile, Lord Halsbury was claiming during the Lords' committee meeting on nuclear energy yesterday that the liberal translation of Chernobyl is "black mirror".

Closing bars

Douglas Hurd may have taken the wrong tack when dealing with the prison riots, says author Nicholas Courtney. Sixty years ago, Bonar Law's Home Secretary, Viscount Bridgeman, quelled a major riot within hours. When asked by the prime minister how he had managed it, Bridgeman replied: "It was easy. I just told the governor to order the prison band to play *Forty Years On*. The prisoners stood to attention and then returned to their cells."

Footballot

Local election time does the oddest things to politicians. Gravitating David Owen has just shown his lighter side by tabling a Commons motion congratulating Plymouth Argyle on its promotion to division two.

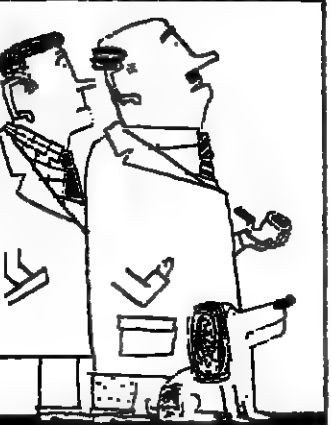
Case history

This month's annual conference of the Police Federation will debate a motion from the Lancashire branch proposing that the federation's adviser in the Commons, Sir Eldon Griffiths, should be joined by consultants from the other two major parties. This news should interest Christopher Walsley, Liberal candidate for West Derbyshire. His father and two uncles were all policemen, his father - as was Sir Eldon's - a federation official. There is just one problem: Walsley is a former producer of BBC 2's *Brass Tacks*, a show that rivals *Rough Justice* as your average copper's least-favourite programme.

Ovett and out

Neil Kinnock has been telling friends what a fine time he has had the other day. He'd just finished redecorating and was busy putting up his pictures and plates. On television, Steve Ovett was commenting on a race. When he enthused, for the sixth time, "And the women are doing jolly well," it was too much for Glensy Kinnock. According to her husband, she reacted so scathingly that a plate he was in the act of hanging crashed to the floor.

BARRY FANTONI



"That red glow is either Lewes prison or a Russian nuclear power station"

Dead slow

The wheels of the Probate Registry of Wales in Llandaff grind exceedingly slow, as bereaved relatives will tell you. The problem, it appears, is an unreliable photo-copying machine. But instead of installing another copier or taking the last wills and testaments to the nearest copying shop, staff have been instructed to send everything requiring copying to London. There the bundles of papers are duly photocopied and posted back to Wales. As a worker admitted yesterday, the process can take a week. The good news is that the machine is behaving itself a little better at the moment and is due for replacement this autumn.

PHS

Why Aquino needs help now

by Francisco Tatad

Manila President Reagan, in his meetings with foreign ministers of the Association of South-East Asian Nations on Bali, is having an opportunity to hear about the problems facing the two-month-old Aquino government in the Philippines. He was yesterday discussing with Salvador Laurel, the vice-president and foreign minister, how America can help meet specific challenges.

Reagan has announced an increase in official US aid for Mrs Aquino's administration, but this money alone will not solve her problems. She needs to prime the economy, create jobs, mobilize the rural communities and equip the armed forces to fight the Communist and resurgent secessionists in Mindanao. The treasury has been looted and there has been no inflow of capital. Aquino is trying to recover billions of dollars in foreign assets said to have been illegally acquired by the former president, Ferdinand Marcos. This entails a long legal process, and unless the US and other foreign governments offer their full assistance, the wrangling could drag on for years.

If Reagan wants to help he will

have to do so now. Besides increasing economic and military aid, he could also improve its terms and advance its delivery schedules. Delayed assistance could be self-defeating. The Philippines also needs better access to US and Japanese markets and easier foreign debt-servicing terms. At present, debt-servicing needs are consuming much of Manila's meagre foreign exchange.

Without fresh capital, the hoped-for economic turnaround is not likely to come, and the government will be unable to cope with the increased activities of Marcos loyalists in Manila and Communist guerrillas in the countryside.

In the past few weeks, Marcos supporters have been picking the US Embassy in their tens of thousands, demanding the former president's return from Hawaii. Arturo Tolentino, Marcos's foreign minister, has vowed to be sworn in as vice-president on or before June 14.

Aquino's unilateral offer of a cease-fire to the Communists, announced without consultation

with the military, has failed. Guerrilla activity has risen, claiming a daily average of about 12 soldiers killed in the past 60 days. A Reuters photographer and a local journalist were among those killed in the latest encounters in the northern Cagayan province. Government troops have also clashed with the Moro National Liberation Front in the south.

The use of the military to enforce local government appointments has resulted in further military casualties. Some Muslim elements are threatening a holy war, while at least one Muslim-Christian group is calling for the separation of Mindanao from the republic.

Aquino continues to enjoy strong support. But she has been slow to respond to basic demands from the countryside. Moreover, her lack of clear policies on foreign investment, compounded with anti-capitalist statements by her labour minister, Agustin Sanchez, have dampened an otherwise bullish business climate. After a surge in business confidence, stock exchange trading has declined to

levels only slightly higher than those before Marcos's fall.

The new president has done little or nothing to consolidate her base. The Cabinet is divided on such issues as the selective repudiation of foreign debt and the scrapping of the overpriced Westinghouse nuclear plant. She seems to rely on advisers not much more experienced than she.

Unless she is able quickly to seize the initiative, Aquino's government risks being swept aside by stronger forces who want to prevent by any means the Communists and secessionists gaining the upper hand. Already, some have expressed fear that her government could end up like the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky which came into power in the Russian revolution of March 1917 and fell a few months later.

Kerensky fell because of ineffectual leadership. He could not satisfy the clamour of the masses for "land, peace and bread".

The author was information minister under President Marcos from 1969 to 1980, a member of parliament until 1984, resigning under martial law.

David and Gareth Butler on the shift the by-elections may reveal

Time for a tactical vote?



Roy Hattersley with Shirley Haines, Labour's Ryedale candidate

	1983	Con	Lab	Aln
125 strong Labour seats	over 45%	-10%	+2%	+6%
224 seats with Lab in contention	25%-45%	-10%	+12%	-2%
284 hopeless Labour seats	undr 25%	-10%	+2%	+8%

	Con	Lab	Aln
Share of votes	33.0%	34.6%	30.3%
Seats on uniform swing	274	296	56
Seats on tactical voting	234	328	66
Difference in seats	-40	+30	+10

Parties coming first and second	1983	Party coming first	1985	
Con & Lab	284	Con	125	Lab
Lab & Aln	284	Lab	159	Aln
Lab & Aln	54	Lab	49	18
Net 1st or 2nd	11	6	1	4
Total seats (518)	633	357	209	23

tactical voting. There would be startling consequences for the total outcome if these assumptions held good (table 2).

Labour could thus, with tactical voting, win a clear majority on less than 35 per cent of the national vote. On uniform swings from the 1983 results, 38 per cent is the minimum for either the Conservative or the Labour Party to gain absolute victory (the Alliance faces a 42 per cent hurdle).

The tactical voting hypothesis is not just a contrived way of attributing some hope of victory to Labour at a period when its opinion poll ratings seem to have developed a stubborn ceiling of

around 36 per cent. Our example does presuppose a fairly sharp drop in Conservative support nationwide, but the phenomenon could emerge even if all the party percentages remain at the 1983 level. Tory margins would still fall through tactical voting.

What hard evidence is there, however, that the era of uniform national swing is dead? First, there is the inherent logic of the phenomenon evident in the 1983 elections. Conservative-Labour contests were no longer the norm, and the country is now divided equally into a Conservative-Labour half and a Conservative-Alliance half (table 3).

Less than a third of the 397

Conservative MPs won against Labour. The Alliance was the prime enemy. But three-quarters of Labour MPs won against the Conservatives. The division is not narrowly regional. Labour hopes and needs to gain seats in Bristol, Swindon, Oxford, Southampton and, of course, Greater London if it is to attain a majority in the House of Commons.

The two Oxford seats (table 4) epitomise the problem. Oxford East is 16th on Labour's list of targets, winnable on even a modest Conservative-Labour swing; but Oxford West and Abingdon would be a Conservative loss to the Alliance if the latter could squeeze the Labour vote.

	Oxford East	Ox West & Abingdon
Con	40%	48%
Lab	37%	33%
Aln	23%	17%

The by-elections of this Parliament have shown that tactical voting flourishes. In the 10 fought in mainland Britain the Labour vote has gone up in five out of the six where the party won 25 per cent or more in 1983. It has gone down in three out of the four where its 1983 vote was under 25 per cent. Recent local authority by-elections show many more instances of this tendency.

What does all this imply? First, it appears to strengthen the Alliance argument against the present electoral system. For a party to win a clear majority on barely a third of the votes could be seen by many as a cause for concern. Second, it justifies the Labour strategy of "targeting" 130 or so winnable seats, to the exclusion of the rest. Third, it confirms the widespread prejudice against

believing in uniform national swing. Most people want to think that their seat is going to defy the broad trend - and on this hypothesis, many of them could be right. Fourth, it explains why the Labour vote can rise by 10 per cent in Fulham and, perhaps, stand still in Ryedale, while the Alliance vote does the opposite.

For the Alliance the moral is that it must keep the voters in those 315 seats in which it came second last time aware that it offers the challenge to the incumbent. And for Conservatives it seems that, instead of disparaging the Alliance, they should be devoting their propaganda to keeping voters (or at least those with latent Labour sympathies) loyal to it.

There have been signs in recent weeks of a Labour rally and an Alliance slump. It will be interesting to watch the extent of this trend next Thursday. But what will be more interesting still will be measuring how tactical it is - how far the anti-Thatcher voters give to him that bath, and take away from him that bath too.

David and Gareth Butler are the authors of *British Political Facts, 1900-1985*, published this week by Macmillan.

Peter Evans on the pressures that led to the prison officers taking action

Mutiny on the container ship

service's Rule 1, it exists to encourage and assist prisoners in leading a good and useful life. That rule, the culmination of at least a century of purposeful penal reform, has been important to both officer and prisoner. But now, after the growth of scepticism about the usefulness of any sort of punishment as a means of reform, the emphasis is being put on humane containment - equally well the purpose of a zoo.

Though the change was not dramatic, has not taken place overnight, and does not apply everywhere to an equal extent, it has blunted sensibilities. It is easier to contemplate severe industrial action if a moral aim is not given the same priority by the prison leadership.

There is a ghetto mentality in the service, encouraged by the

isolation of the various prisons. Prison officers suspect that management would like to get rid of their tribal lords, the chief officers, on the grounds that they fit a bit anachronistically into a management-orientated service. This uncertainty has helped to provide a new focus of loyalty: the Prison Officers' Association.

Though it sees itself as keeper of the traditions of the service, the POA's arguments are becoming more stridently economic, condemning the prison building programme - much needed though it is - for absorbing money that should be spent on the day-to-day running of the service.

Part of the change which buffets the service is because it is, like the rest of the public justice system, demand-led. The argument at the heart of the dispute between the

FOA and the service is about manning levels needed to cope with a rising jail population. More economic use of manpower could save money, says the prison department, but the POA says that could reduce staff that their safety would be at risk and the prisoners' lives made more miserable. The title of the Home Office official negotiating with the POA is Director of Personnel and Finance: the two are inextricably linked as part of his role.

The prison service has not been the only complainant. Last June, Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said that London's police could no longer keep pace with crime. In trying to operate within rigorously enforced cash limits, the police would inevitably be less able to meet all their commitments in the way they would wish. "We have been forced to concentrate upon particular priorities," he said.

The message coming out of the jails is similar. With law and order likely to be a major issue in the next general election the government can point to increased prison spending; but will it keep pace with demand as the jail population climbs towards 50,000?

The author is home affairs correspondent of The Times.

David Watt

Labour's new geometry

The Labour Party's new "Freedom and Fairness" campaign is handsome candyfloss but it is also potentially important. If it has the impact that the people who are paying so much for it intend, it is going to alter, once again, the mental picture with which voters approach British politics.

For the past two years, that picture has predominantly been the one painted by the Alliance, whose chief psychological achievement has been to destroy the notion of the party struggle as a tug-of-war and substitute the image of a pair of scales, with the Alliance standing half-way between two extremes, ready to throw its weight on to one side or another. It is unlikely that Labour can restore the old heaven-to in time for the general election, but it now threatens to replace the vision of a balance with the image of a tall triangle of roughly equal sides, representing an "extreme" government at the apex, challenged by two rival "moderate" parties at the base.

The policies of Labour and the Alliance are not, of course, seen as identical. But with Labour playing down "socialism" and even a dogmatic devotion to equality, both alternatives to Mrs Thatcher appear to be offering non-ideological prescriptions, with an emphasis on managerial competence, bread-and-butter "human" satisfaction, and planned industrial regeneration.

Naturally, Labour still has to confirm that the new look is not simply sheep's clothing. Even if one accepts the highly debatable proposition that the far-left has been crushed for the rest of this Parliament, the party's credibility as a moderate, centrist force cannot rest purely on the policies it is putting forward at the moment. The path of the repentant sinner is mined with other people's memories, and Labour's glossy slogans about the freedom of the individual, filched from the Thatcher revolution, would look more convincing if the whole bent of Labour Party policy since 1945 had not been towards intervention. The average voter does not need to have pored over Sir Isaiah Berlin's essay on the two meanings of liberty to realize that the new campaign's promises to "free" people from poverty, bad housing and long waits in the health clinic do not amount to a promise to "free" them from bonds that they may well want to lose even more - namely the constraints of well-meaning social engineering and accompanying high taxation that have been at the heart of British socialism since the War.

However, let us give the Labour publicists their due and assume that their efforts suppress all awkward echoes from the past and blur all doubtful intimations from the future. In short, suppose the new image sticks. What then? For the Conservatives, the effects look mixed. Their lonely isolation at the apex of the triangle becomes more uncomfortable; Alliance and Labour attacks on

the government's record, being similar, reinforce each other. But because the Conservatives are now the only surviving proponents of "conviction" politics, they have the advantage of being able to look more positive and assertive than their opponents. The instinctive determination of Mrs Thatcher and Norman Tebbit to produce a radical manifesto for the next election is probably the strategy best suited to the new political situation; it makes a virtue out of necessity.

For the Alliance parties, the loss of the "balance" image caused by the blurring of the distinction with Labour is a pity, since it deprives them of their claim to be the sole occupants of the political centre. But it is not all bad, since it tends to confirm their status as being on an equal footing with Labour. The crucial and uncertain question is what effect the new geometry, if firmly established, would have on the saleability of the Alliance's main stock-in-trade - the prospect of a "hung" Parliament and a coalition government.

After a lot of doubt and argument, particularly on the Liberal side, David Owen's strategy of making an electoral stalemate rather than an outright Alliance victory the main sales-pitch on doorsteps has become firmly adopted. The idea has been that by voting Alliance you are not just getting the most sensible policies; you are buying a veto over the unfettered tyranny of whichever "extreme" party you fear most.

This appeal has worked pretty well at local level. In parliamentary by-elections it has encouraged tactical voting for the Alliance; in local elections it has produced a sizeable number of hung councils in which coalition in practice is very real. It can be seen operating competently. The assumption has been that this line would be equally persuasive in a general election; if the Alliance held the national balance of power, neither Conservative nor Labour parties would be able to resist a deal - and at the handsome price of abandoning "extreme" policies.

But does this scenario have the same attraction if Labour ceases to look "extreme"? The best judgement is that it probably doesn't, but that the effect would be lopsided. On the one hand Tebbit's constant cry that a vote for the Alliance lets in Labour will be less effectively frightening to Tory voters but, on the other, Kinnock's accusation that a vote for the Alliance lets in the Conservatives will pack more punch.

The overall electoral arithmetic, in fact, favours the Kinnock and Tebbit theses almost equally. Each needs the Alliance to take enough votes to block its main opponent. But from the psychological point of view, Labour's new respectability, by isolating the Conservatives, may make an Alliance-Conservative coalition seem less desirable and an Alliance vote to keep out Labour less essential.

moreover... Miles Kington

Strangers when we meet, again

Starting tomorrow in the *More-over* column, and only in the *More-over* column: the *Duchess of Windsor's Diaries*.

Yes, exclusive to *More-over* are the hitherto unknown journals which the Duchess of Windsor kept all through her life. They come to us from sources we cannot reveal, but they have been authenticated by experts, all of whom have asked to remain anonymous. They are written in hasty longhand in a W.H. Smith exercise book. W.H. Smith, a famous firm of reputable stationers, have confirmed that the book is, beyond doubt, one of theirs. There can be no doubt about the diaries' authenticity.

Here at last is the truth about all the great questions which have hovered over the life of the late Duchess of Windsor! Questions such as:

Did Wallis Simpson grow up in America as a boy, misled by the masculine sound of her name?

Did Stanley Baldwin offer to marry Wallis Simpson in place of Edward VIII, in order to avoid a constitutional crisis?

Did the Prince of Wales insist on marrying Wallis so that he could abdicate and avoid the throne he had dreaded mounting?

Was there a secret door built into the throne of England, so that the Duchess of Windsor could secretly enter and leave at will?

Is it true that she had previously been married to seven men called Simpson, Crumphy, Sneezy, Wilson, Keppel, Betty and Gordon Bennett?

If divorces are not allowed in the British monarchy, how did Henry VIII get away with it?

All this and more is revealed in the secret diaries of the Duchess of Windsor, which start tomorrow in the *More-over* column. In them she lays bare her thoughts on Libya, the Westland affair, Neil Kinnock and what it's like to grow up being called Wallis. And she also tells us about her first meeting with her future husband...

May, 1931. Today I was presented for the first time to the Prince of Wales. Upon my being introduced as Wallis Simpson, he said he thought that that was the name of a photographic shop. I

said he was thinking of Wallace Heaton. We all laughed.

It is often thought that the Duke and Duchess of Windsor took little interest in world affairs, but these newly discovered diaries prove this is not so. For instance, this sensational entry in 1937:

"I am worried about the ambitions of Herr Hitler. Something tells me that they will lead to a European war in two years' time, and though I think that we shall have won by about 1945; it will lead to much misery for Britain, culminating, I fancy, in an ill-fated attempt to win the Suez canal by force in about 1956. But the advent of rock'n'roll will do much to restore merriment to the nation. I only wish I had not been called Wallis."

This preoccupation with her first name comes out in another version of her first meeting with the prince:

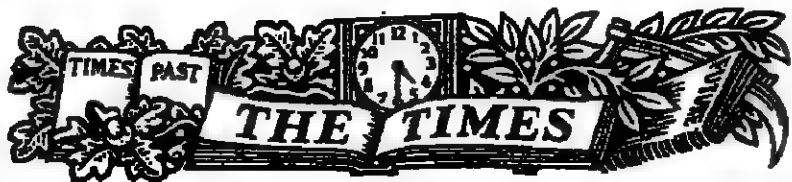
"June, 1931. Today I was presented for the first time to the Prince of Wales. 'Wallis Simpson?' he said. 'Is that not the name of the man who introduces *The Goon Show* on the wireless?' I said he must be thinking of Wallace Greenslade, and we all laughed."

That these diaries are utterly genuine there can be no doubt. At the very end of the final entry there is a handwritten note: "These diaries are utterly genuine, honest", and signed "the Duchess of Windsor. PS. I bet you cannot find the jewels." And there is also, to clinch everything, an entry describing her first meeting with the Prince of Wales:

"July 1931. Met the Prince of Wales again for the first time. He said he thought he had met an American film star of the same name as mine. I said, for heaven's sake, that is Wallace Barry; you would think you could get my name right by now. We all laughed."

Only in *More-over* will you find three totally genuine accounts of the first meeting of the Duchess of Windsor with the Prince of Wales. Starting tomorrow: the *Diaries of the Duchess of Windsor*. Reserve your copy now. We shall be working throughout the night to write them.

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STOPOVER AT TOKYO

President Reagan's arrival in Tokyo today, after a leisurely ramble around the Pacific basin, starts the serious build-up to the weekend summit of seven world leaders. This summit is the latest in a series that began in 1975 and travels circus-like from one participating country to another.

Annual summits, which now involve America, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — in strict order of economic power — had as their original purpose the need to co-ordinate responses to diverse threats to the world economy. The threats have altered in 11 years, and so have fashions in economic co-operation. For seventies-style demand management, with images of locomotive economies, we have substituted exchange-rate management and interest-rate co-ordination. Survive as they may, however — and some have striven very hard — the leaders of the world economy have not managed to avoid all necessity to co-operate.

Time and again, even the largest nations have been brought up short against the facts of interdependence in a world of fairly free trade and ever freer financial flows. The checklist of economic issues between the summit economies, therefore, is as long as ever.

Some have a ritual ring to them. Since 1975, summiteers have regularly raised their standard against protectionism. Last year's summit occasion, in Bonn, was clouded by French refusal to sign up for the American plan to enliven the verbiage of the summit communiqué with a firm commitment to launch a new round of trade talks under

the aegis of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade this year. Since last summer, however, agreement has quietly been patched together, and the new Gatt round is due to be launched in September. It remains only for the Tokyo summiteers to take note of the fact which should require little prior controversy.

A more urgent trade issue has been created by Japan's enormous trade surplus, which has already topped \$60 billion a year and will be rendered more visible (if not more disturbing to its western partners) by the falling cost of its oil imports. Unsatisfied by the Japanese Government's promises to stimulate import spending, the Americans and British in particular have been urging still more appreciation of the yen, and Japanese manufacturers have been loud in their protests. Thus the first serious summit question is whether those governments which only last September signed up for co-operative currency management can reconcile their differences. At a time when the most important currency of all — the American dollar — has begun to look vulnerable, harmony among the main official players in the currency market is an essential stabilising influence.

Linked to this disagreement is the squabble that has broken out between summit governments as to the further possibilities for cuts in interest rates. This, however, reflects not only currency concerns but also anxiety about the rate of world economic growth. Most forecasts suggest this will pick up slightly, from last year, with the assistance of cheaper energy, but to a pace which offers precious little hope of reducing European unemployment or

floating the third world off the rocks of debt.

In public, the summiteers cannot be confidently expected to produce more than the latest brand of platitude, known by the codename "SNIG" — signifying the no doubt admirable objective of stable non-inflationary growth. In private, some resolution of European and American differences on priorities would be helpful. A further test of this summit, therefore, will be whether the present interrupted sequence of interest rate cuts is restarted by West Germany as an earnest of European intent to foster stronger economic growth.

But the natural preference of heads of government for the broad political brush to the financial quill has widened the agenda of the summit year after year. Even before the disaster at Chernobyl added the fate of the world nuclear industry to the list of leaders' common anxieties, the tensions that have arisen with regard to Libya had elbowed economic concerns into second place.

In retrospect, the need for international co-operation to enhance the growth prospects of these countries, and thus reduce the risk of international financial crisis or domestic social unrest, may perhaps seem more important than the recent quarrel between allies as to the proper way to check the terrorist activities of Colonel Gaddafi. On the first weekend in May, 1986, however, the most urgent need is to heal the breach between America and most of its European allies that gaped with the bombing of Libya. The prime test of this summit will be its success in that therapeutic task.

THE SOVIET INTEREST IN COOPERATION

There are moments in international life when the most exhausted political clichés suddenly acquire an urgent relevance. Thus John Donne's assertion that no man is an island, which had previously been rendered pale and anemic by being too often quoted, seems an example of vital common sense when there is a radioactive cloud floating about Central and Eastern Europe.

However poor the prospects for effective international co-operation in matters such as arms control or terrorism, where some governments may nourish the delusion that by judicious appeasement they can escape the general epidemic, there can be no doubt that all governments have an interest in avoiding disasters like Chernobyl in their own country and in those of their neighbours. That gives governments an interest in cooperating with each other and with international agencies like the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Soviet Union has this identical interest along with other countries. Indeed, insofar as Chernobyl has demonstrated that Soviet standards in nuclear power are lower and the risks of disaster consequently higher, it has a greater interest in such co-operation than elsewhere.

ANZUS'S LITTLE LOCAL DIFFICULTY

New Zealand and the United States would seem to be steering towards a political collision in the South Pacific, which they will in time come to regret. While the damage is not irreparable, the collision itself is avoidable and one of them at least should change course.

It is fairly clear which one this should be. The Labour government in Wellington declined permission for the American destroyer Buchanan to enter a New Zealand port last summer because of the US Navy's refusal to say whether or not it was carrying nuclear weapons. The Royal Navy which also has a policy of refusing to answer such questions, has answered a similar confrontation on its current Far East deployment only by leaving New Zealand off the list of warship visits.

So far the anti-nuclear stance adopted by the Wellington government has been a matter of party policy. Legislation which is due in August, however, will enshrine it in the country's constitution and make it much more difficult to reverse. Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fieldhouse, Chief of

the Defence Staff, made known his concern in February and Lady Young, deputy Foreign Secretary, was similarly unequivocal on visiting New Zealand in April.

This week, however, Washington went further by making clear that it will end its defence commitments to New Zealand under the 35-year-old Anzus Pact if the legislation goes through. The treaty itself will remain in being. But to all intents and purposes New Zealand will be frozen out of it — for the time being anyway.

This might or might not worry the New Zealand prime minister Mr. David Lange. He has himself described the South Pacific as a "pocket of tranquillity". Even if it were not so, it is hard to see how its allies could stand aside in the unlikely event of New Zealand being attacked, treaty commitments or not.

But the psychological impact would be considerable. New Zealand would be the first Western power to become disengaged from the web of treaties and alliances which have enmeshed the First World since the post-war years. And for what?

Following Chernobyl, it has an even greater interest than before in such regulatory co-operation since Western scientists are considerably more knowledgeable and experienced in this area. The West has an equal interest in learning from the disaster in order to avoid a repetition. And everyone, as President Reagan pointed out on the first day, has an interest in assisting those suffering from radiation sickness who may run into thousands.

What is immediately required of the Soviet Union is that it should admit Western scientists and allow them to seek the answers to questions which, when stripped of their awesome technicalities, come down to: What happened? What were the safety measures in place? What are now the risks from radiation in the area?

Looking ahead, the Soviet Union should in future admit IAEA officials to inspect safety and other standards in Soviet nuclear power stations instead of claiming the superpower exemption, as it has until now, of carrying out IAEA inspections with its own officials. Openness to scientific regulation of this kind would at least begin to remove the stain of the Soviet Union's silence while a radioactive cloud floated towards its neighbours.

New Zealand can afford the luxury of a non-nuclear policy because of its abundance of alternative energy sources. No-one expects New Zealand to arm itself with nuclear weapons and few would complain if, like Norway or Denmark, it set itself against the stationing of nuclear weapons on its territory in peacetime. But to refuse permission for ships to enter its ports because they are nuclear-powered or because they might be carrying nuclear weapons is taking the policy to the point of caprice. To elevate this anti-nuclear gesture to the level of a constitutional principle combines eccentricity with self-indulgence.

There have been murmurs about a compromise — one perhaps under which allied navies could avoid answering the crucial question and could then enter port on the basis of telling a half-truth. That may not be entirely satisfactory. But one must hope that the application of American pressure will persuade Mr. Lange and his crew that by veering a little to starboard they would avoid an unnecessary confrontation with their country's friends. It is no time for un-splendid isolation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What Labour seeks to achieve

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, It is not surprising that your editorial on Labour's Freedom and Fairness campaign (April 24) disagrees with the party's policies. It is surprising that your comments are based on such a grotesque caricature of what a Labour government would actually do.

You write that "the price" of fulfilling Labour's policies "would be paid by every citizen's living standards". Every citizen? Labour's policies would help parents, pensioners and unemployed in direct cash terms — and, in the case of the unemployed people, by economic policies that would increase their hopes of finding work.

In addition, by spending more on services such as health and education, Labour would improve the living standards of many more people — using "living standards" in its true sense, rather than the narrower, meaner concept of disposable cash income.

In your following paragraph you refer to "Mr. Hattersley's intention [of] using tax sanctions to enforce the repatriation of overseas investment and, in addition, to make it go where bureaucracy dictates rather than where enterprise suggests".

Labour proposes to offer tax incentives to financial institutions to invest in Britain. Those institutions that choose to forgo those concessions will suffer "sanctions" only in the sense that, say, a shareholder in ICI faces "sanctions" because he or she has chosen to invest in an existing company rather than one covered by the tax concessions of the Business Expansion Scheme. My memory may be at fault, but I do not recall *The Times* condemning BES as a regime of "tax sanctions" against ICI shareholders.

Your description of Labour's investment policy ignores not only what Mr. Hattersley has said on the subject but also the clear evidence of what happened in Britain during the past quarter-century. Has "enterprise" — to use your word — really been that successful at allocating financial resources? I find it strange that you should appear to embrace so uncritically a system under which manufacturing industry's share fell from 24 per cent to 11 per cent of total UK investment between 1960 and 1983.

I would propose an alternative analysis: that it is precisely because of the bureaucratic characteristics of our "enterprise" institutions that we have witnessed such a failure to secure adequate industrial investment. Too few banks, pension funds, etc. are equipped to understand and meet the long-term financial requirements of a society facing rapid technological change.

The purpose of Labour's proposed National Investment Bank is to make up for this deficiency. The NIB will be designed to operate close to the companies it will support, both in the geographic sense of allowing considerable regional autonomy and in the technological sense of employing people with the skills to make sensible long-term investment decisions within each sector. The NIB's purpose is to avoid so much of the bureaucratic arthritis that seems to paralyse so many of our supposedly "enterprise" institutions.

Yours faithfully,
SIGMUND STERNBERG
(Deputy Chairman, Labour Finance and Industry Group),
220 Queensdown Road, SW8,
April 28.

Teachers' dispute

From Mr. Roderick Thomson

Sir, There is a sense — and a former senior Civil Servant of the distinction of Sir William Pile (April 23) must know this — in which every conscientious and fully aware teacher re-dedicates himself or herself daily to pupils and to their emotional development and educational progress. Sir William's analysis concerns "the unions" in general and the NUT in particular, but it does not touch upon the pith of the individual teacher's feelings or on his or her economic, social and cultural situation.

When a profession loses one third of its buying power in six years the question of pay is bound to become obsessional as such a reduction goes far beyond a mere decline in income; for some it means nothing less than a downward journey on the social scale. At that prospect teachers have now become obdurate.

When the national chief of all educational activity, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, sets out habitually to disparage almost every aspect of the teaching profession in sweeping terms, morale tends to sink. Demoralisation has, in fact, set in at all points between the play group and the Sheldonian, including the public schools and the great grammar schools of the North.

On GCSE the main tactic, if one can call it that, has been coercion. The enormous extra workload for teachers, its implications and scales of payment are, so far as the DES is concerned, to go completely unmentioned.

Austria's President

From Mr. George Ivan Smith

Sir, British national newspapers refrain from involvement in the elections of another nation. In the case of Austria's presidential election an exception has been made, correctly I think, to take heed of Dr. Waldheim's as yet undisclosed and uncertain role in the Nazi repression in southern Europe. *The Times* (April 4) and now *The Guardian* (April 25), in editorials suggest that he should withdraw from the election for the sake of Austria. I submit that higher considerations oblige him to accept that advice.

Thousands of international civil servants like myself served under him. I served under his three predecessors, too. There was no blemish on their record. In Dr. Waldheim's case there is doubt. Unless he chooses to clear the record before he achieves his aim

I believe Sir William Pile is wrong to say that the replacement of the Secretary of State will not make a difference. The loss of faith in Sir Keith is now deep and widespread. It is quite unlikely that things can pick up at all in our schools until he has left the DES. Only when he has gone will the Cabinet be able to plan and obtain, in a fresh atmosphere, the just and restorative compact between the partners in education that teachers and parents thirst for.

Yours faithfully,
RODERICK THOMSON,
14 Dove Street,
Shipley, West Yorkshire.

From the General Secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers

Sir, Your Education Correspondent, Lucy Hodges (Spectrum, April 25) does an injustice to the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UWT) when she asserts that its boycott of GCSE preparation is merely a sanction on pay. The NAS/UWT has no current sanction on pay. It is leading the talks at Acas in the hope of securing a peaceful solution to the pay problem.

NAS/UWT sanctions on GCSE remain for there is no provision to accommodate the enormous additional workload that will be generated by many factors, principally continuous assessment.

Yours faithfully,
FRED SMITHIES,
General Secretary, NAS/UWT,
22 Upper Brook Street, W1.

to be president of his own country he leaves the international apparatus damaged.

Of all high offices, that of the UN Secretary General must be seen as having been held by the trusted custodian of the principles of the UN Charter. Its holder must be seen as having upheld those principles in every aspect and detail of his life. Without that individual commitment the already frail vessel of international organisation which is the UN is put further at risk and we who served it are rendered no service by example from the man who led us.

It is the honour and integrity in international service, not just that of Austria, that is at stake.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE IVAN SMITH,
Elm Cottage,
Butterworth West,
Stroud, Gloucestershire.

Doctors' dilemma

From Dr. M. J. L. Hopkins

Sir, Your leading article today (April 23), "No surgery for the surgeries", realises the dilemma the Government is in trying to improve family health care without being accused of dismantling the "old" popular NHS.

At present general practitioners contract with the Government to provide care for their patients. This includes arranging out of hours cover, organising surgery premises and providing locums.

GPs have to achieve fairly large lists to maintain income and

although the resulting system of primary care is without frills in some instances, it is provided at a cost that is the envy of the world.

As elsewhere, general practice has been squeezed — increased expectations, reduced pay awards, more accountability and the limited list of available drugs. Further reform has problems: a voucher system will encourage inequality of care with migration of GPs to areas where the consumer will pay more; payment by results is attractive but many GPs feel it is undesirable and it will cost more; reducing list sizes would increase surgery time and make the acquisition of new patients more attractive to the individual GP. It would cost a lot more money.

If no more money is available Mr. Fowler should concentrate his resources on areas of need already identified and ignored during the lengthy preparation of his Green Paper.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. L. HOPKINS,
Hillside,
Courtfield Road,
Mannamere,
Plymouth, Devon.
April 23.

How long, O Lord?

From Mr. Robin Kimber

Sir, Mr. Selman (April 29), commenting upon the length of a voluntary broadcast from Lichfield Cathedral, should thank his lucky stars. Lichfield's "Ad Nos ad Sublucrum Undam", in the repertoire of both Lichfield organists, clocks in at around 30 minutes.

Is that long enough?
Yours faithfully,
ROBIN KIMBER,
Director of Music,
St James's Church,
Sussex Gardens, W2.

Men less equal than women?

From Mr. D. G. Lindsay

Sir, It is as Government seems to be proposing, women are given the right to continue working until the same age as men, without State pension ages being simultaneously equalised, the existing balance of disadvantage — women having to retire at 60 while men have to wait until 65 for pension — will be upset. Indeed, women who work on after 60 will then have all the advantages.

They will pay no further NI contributions and yet will draw an increased (due to deferment) State pension on retiring, even if before 65, while their male counterparts must continue contributions while working, and wait until 65 for merely the basic State pension. The position under most occupational schemes will be the same.

In the Orwellian farmyard of the working 60 to 64s the women will be far more equal than the men.

Government may not be able to equalise State pension age at a stroke, but it could, for a start, deal with the 60 — 64 problem by requiring working women in this age range to pay the same NI contributions as do working men and by freezing State pension increase due to deferment at its then accrued figure.

It would be a pleasant change to see Government acting on its own initiative in this matter instead of being shamed into action by Luxembourg or Strasbourg.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID G. LINDSAY,
36 Orchard Coombe,
Whitchurch Hill,
Reading,
Berkshire.
April 25.

Abdication memories

From Mr. Lewis Golden

Sir, In his defence of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor your correspondent John Grigg (feature, April 25) attempts to soften the serious mistake of their 1937 meeting with Hitler by likening it to the appearance of the King and Queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palace with Neville Chamberlain when he returned from signing the Munich Agreement in 1938.

Both were manifestations of the spirit of appeasement then overwhelmingly prevalent, your correspondent writes; but there was all the difference in the world between the Windsors paying a private call on the German Chancellor, which could do nothing except help build his international prestige, and the Prime Minister being received by the Monarch after negotiating with Hitler in an attempt to avoid a threatened global war.

Yours faithfully,
LEWIS GOLDEN,
Fallingham Manor Farm,
Woburn, Bedfordshire,
West Sussex.
April 28.

Libyan students

From Mr. E. Turnbull

Sir, I cannot gainsay the motivations of protecting UK security which have induced the Minister of Transport and others to decide upon expelling various students from this country; but I felt an instinctive sense of revulsion when I heard that some of these individuals had been held in common prisons pending their deportation.

Presumably not all of them are under criminal charges; in some cases, at least, therefore this is a form of dispute between nations in which individuals are increasingly being caught up. Where individuals are being expelled for national and not individual criminal reasons, is it too much to expect that the UK will behave in its national traditions of dignity and restraint, e.g. by holding such people in military or naval establishments under military guard, and not treating them as if they were common criminals?

One of the most potent UK exports since 1945 has been science, technology and education — UK-trained experts have spread a huge influence for good will throughout public life abroad. How foolish it would be if the Government destroyed the worldwide advantages of such influence by failing to observe minimal courtesies in the present sad situation.

Yours faithfully,
E. TURNBULL,
Taman,
38 Elsdon Road,
Gosforth,
Tyne & Wear.
April 26.

Police uniformity

From Mr. F. J. E. Hurst

Sir, After watching last night's (April 24) fascinating BBC TV programme *Crimewatch*, with its variety of police telephone numbers, I am left wondering why it is apparently not practicable in most cases for the various police headquarters throughout the country to have identical telephone numbers. Only the dialling codes need be different.

The same policy could be usefully applied also to other major services.

Does anyone have an objection to this?
Yours faithfully,
F. J. E. HURST,
Hillside,
72 Ballywillan Road,
Portrush,
co. Antrim.
April 25.



ON THIS DAY

MAY 2 1945

The facts of Hitler's death are more prosaic than those of Donitz's valiantly hyperbolic. He committed suicide in his Berlin bunker, together with Eva Braun whom he had married 24 hours previously; their bodies were burned. Donitz (1881-1986), who ruled the Third Reich for 20 days, was tried as a war criminal and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in Spandau jail.

HITLER DEAD

DÖNITZ AS HEAD OF STATE

The first indication of the death of Hitler was given at 9.30 p.m. when Hamburg radio announced that "a grave and important announcement to the German people will be made shortly". From then until the announcement of the death of Hitler, the slow movement of Bruckner's 7th Symphony was played. Then the announcer said:

"It is reported from the Führer's headquarters that our Führer, Adolf Hitler, has fallen this afternoon at his command post in the Reich Chancellery fighting to the last breath against Bolshevism and for Germany."

"On April 30 the Führer appointed Grand Admiral Donitz as his successor. Our new Führer will speak to the German people."

In his radio talk to the German people Donitz said:

"German men and women soldiers of the German Wehrmacht! Our Führer, Adolf Hitler, has fallen. The German people bow in deepest mourning and veneration."

"He recognized beforehand the terrible danger of Bolshevism and devoted his life to fighting it. At the end of this, his battle, and his unwavering straight path of life, stands his death as a hero in the capital of the Reich. All his life meant service to the German people. His battle against the Bolshevist flood benefited not only Europe but the whole world."

"THIS FATEFUL HOUR"

"The Führer has appointed me as his successor. Fully conscious of the responsibility, I take over the leadership of the German people at this fateful hour. It is my first task to save the German people from destruction by the Bolshevists and it is only to achieve this that the fight continues."

"As long as the British and Americans hammer us from reaching this end we shall fight and defend ourselves against them as well. The British and Americans do not fight for the interests of their own people, but for the spreading of Bolshevism."

"When the German people have achieved and suffered is unique in history. In the coming times of distress of our people I shall do my utmost to make life bearable for our brave women, men, and children."

"To achieve all this I need your help. Trust me; keep order and discipline in towns and the countryside. Everybody do his duty. Only thus shall we be able to alleviate the sufferings which the future will bring to each of us and avoid collapse. If we do all that is in our power to do, the Lord will not abandon us."

"HE STAKED HIS LIFE"

An order of the day by Admiral Donitz as "supreme Commander of the Wehrmacht" was then read. It said:

"German Wehrmacht — my comrades. The Führer has fallen. He fell faithful to his great idea to save the peoples of Europe from Bolshevism. He staked his life and died the death of a hero. With his passing one of the greatest heroes of German history has passed away."

In proud reverence and sorrow we lower our flags before him. The Führer has appointed me his successor as head of the State and supreme commander of the German Wehrmacht. I assume the sacred command of all units of the German Wehrmacht with the determination to continue the struggle against Bolshevism until the fighting troops and the hundreds of thousands of families of the German eastern territories are rescued from enslavement or extermination."

Against the British and Americans I shall continue the struggle so far and so long as they hinder me in carrying out the fight against Bolshevism."

A lawyer's worth

From Mr. Ansel Harris

Sir, Is not Bruno Marmorstein (April 22) failing to see the difference between traditional and antiquated reward differentials and the vital role of current market forces to determine salary and wage rates?

His letter puts me in mind of the experience of a friend of mine, a GP, in Israel last year. He called a plumber to clear a drain (it took 15 minutes). The total charge, including call-out, was \$60 (At the time of high inflation Israeli thought and talked in dollar terms).

My friend remonstrated. He was a GP. He could not afford such charges; they were higher than he could command when he was called out.

The plumber agreed. When he was a GP, he said, his experience, had been the same.

Quantum meruit.
ANSEL HARRIS,
M. B. A. Partners,
23 Ferncroft Avenue, NW3.
April 27.

هكذا من الاجل

THE ARTS

Television
Sinister
strategy

Deception being the everyday lubricant of the secret agent's life, he should always bear in mind the possibility of his own mission being a strategic sham. The most remarkable quality shared by the pitifully few survivors of the S.O.E. network in occupied France who were interviewed in *Timewatch Special - All The King's Men* (BBC2) was their lack of bitterness at having been systematically betrayed to the Gestapo by an agent of their own side. Perhaps ransom had long been eclipsed by their abiding sense of wonder at their own survival.

Jacques Bureau (which sounds eerily like a code name) blithely recalled how his interrogator at the Avenue Foch was unable to get down to work because all the torture cells were booked, while John Starr uttered the conversation-stopper "After I escaped from Mauthausen concentration camp" as though reciting a slightly rambling c.v.

The major lacuna in this somewhat laborious investigation of Machiavellian intrigue was the figure of Claude Dansey, the Deputy Head of the rival S.I.S. who - and the evidence adduced was overwhelmingly compelling - deliberately scuppered S.O.E. by "running" their Air Operations Officer Henri Dericourt, a suspiciously friendly agent on suspiciously friendly terms with the mob at the Avenue Foch. Dericourt died in a plane crash in 1962. Did Dansey die in his bed, surrounded by testimonials to his patriotism? All we got was a sternly unconvincing head-shot.

The first episode of *King of the Ghetto* (BBC2) also did its best to conjure a mood of devious menace - this time, in the fetid parlours of Brick Lane, London E1, where the leader of the local squatteria (Tim Roth) finds himself falling for schoolteacher Gwyneth Strong and siding in opposition with Zia Mahyeddin's bent travel agent and Ian Dury's frankly unbelievable pool-hall manager.

Farrukh Dondy's unconvincing script took second place to the soundtrack's acoustic blues, and one was left to sieve amusement from the topographical liberties.

Martin Cropper

Cinema

Brave foray into
British fantasy

Shadey (15)
Screen-on-the-Hill

Zina (15)
Gate Notting Hill; Metro

The Jewel of the Nile
(PG)

Leicester Square Theatre

The Legend of Billie Jean
(15)

Cannon Piccadilly; Film
Centre Charing Cross
Road

Flesh and Blood (18)
Cannons Piccadilly,
Haymarket, Charing
Cross Road

The first film scripted by the dramatist Snoo Wilson, *Shadey* is styled by its makers "a surrealist black comedy", and as such is a brave attempt to introduce fantasy to the British screen. The mercurial Anthony Sher plays Oliver Shadey, a bankrupt motor mechanic with a supernatural ability to transform other people's thoughts into 8mm movie images, and a burning ambition to raise money for his sex change operation.

He sells his gifts to a banker (Patrick Macnee) for the purposes of industrial espionage, but finds himself traded to the Ministry of Defence, who forceably abuse his talents while rewarding him with bureaucratic parsimony. *Shadey* meanwhile remains involved in the peculiar family affairs of the banker, who has a beautiful daughter, incestuous desires, and a mad, malevolent wife who eats coal and castrates tiresome party guests with a kitchen knife.

Snoo Wilson's inventions are exuberant, and as director Philip Saville follows their gyrations with dexterity. As things progress, however, the uneasy feeling grows that the film, far all its topical references, is no more than a series of turns, not really going anywhere or saying anything; and a lame finale seems only to confirm the fear. Sequences like the filming of a commercial with a cast of mongoloid

children appear to be thrust in simply for effect and with little regard to their relevance.

It is written with a kindly eye to the actors, and in particular provides Sher with a show-off role for his first cinema appearance. Sometimes indeed the show-off gets the upper hand, as in a Buster Keaton parody at a party and the arch drag sequence at the end of the film. There are enjoyable performances, in the caricature manner of the film, by Macnee, Katherine Hemond as the mad lady, Bernard Hepton as a tyrannical commuter who works for Intelligence and Billie Whitelaw as an M.O.D. lady with a taste for natty gents' suitings.

Zina Bronstein was the eldest daughter of Lev Davidovich Bronstein, alias Leon Trotsky. Her father left Russia and his family in 1902, when Zina was two, and their subsequent connections were slight. Zina seems nevertheless to have idolized her father from a distance, and to have committed herself passionately to his political beliefs. In the late Twenties she finally joined him for nine months in his exile on the Turkish island of Prinkipo. While apparently attracted by her intelligence and insights, Trotsky became aware of Zina's deep emotional disturbance, and sent her for analysis in Berlin, where she committed suicide during the period of the fascist rise to power.

The true story is more engaging than the film *Zina*, which Ken McMullen, with his co-screenwriter Terry Jones, has wrested from it. *Zina* exemplifies the danger of being too theoretical, of imposing style rather than letting style develop organically from the subject. The film is framed by Zina's sessions with her Berlin psychiatrist, and constructed around her memories, dreams and imaginings. One line follows Trotsky's life and political reflections; another follows contemporary events (the Revolution, Civil War, Stalin, Hitler, and, as an epilogue, the Second World War); a third, citing *Antigone*, hints at parallels with classical tragedy.

A serious subject does not in itself guarantee profundity, and the content does not really vindicate the demanding and complex form. Zina's fantasies are too fragmentary to reveal much about herself, Trotsky or their relationship, and the treatment of history (choral renderings of the "Internationale" and Nazis defacing Heartfield collages) tends to the familiar and superficial. The compensations are fine visuals and excellent



A show-off role for the mercurial Anthony Sher in his first film, *Shadey*

performances by Domiziana Giordano as Zina and Philip Madoc as a faintly pompous Trotsky.

The Jewel of the Nile is a heavily-handed sequel to *Romancing the Stone*. The new director, Lewis Teague, lacks the deftness of Robert Zemeckis, and the earlier film clearly owed much of its wit and whimsy also to the writer Diane Thomas, who subsequently died in a car accident. (A title dedicates the film to her memory and that of three men killed in an air crash while scouting locations for the film.)

Michael Douglas (adventurer), Kathleen Turner (romantic novelist) and Danny DeVito (mint-sized comedy villain) this time find themselves in North Africa, committed to effecting the downfall of a fanatical dictator and usurper. The curiosity of the film lies in its prophetic parallels to current events and its insights into popular American fallacies about the Third World and foreign policy. Natives of North Africa are shown either as fiendish assassins or retarded, happy children out of *National Geographic*; and of course no dusky dictator has a chance against a resourceful American hero letting fly with triumphant whoops of "Yeah-right!"

The script of *The Jewel of the Nile* is by Mark Rosenthal and Lawrence Konner, who also wrote *The Legend of Billie Jean*, a tale at least as unlikely. It is a juvenile *Bonnie and Clyde*, with elements of *Sugarland*

Express thrown in - which is not surprising since the director, Matthew Robbins, was written on that earlier fantasy of a fugitive who becomes a folk-hero.

Billie Jean is a nice girl from the wrong side of the tracks who takes to the road with her kid brother after a run-in with a redneck, rapist store-owner and his horrible son. As a champion of kids' rights, modelling herself on Jean Seberg's Saint Joan, she rallies the youth of Texas with her battle-cry of "Fair is fair". The story becomes sillier as it goes along; the main compensation is the fresh and lively playing of Helen Slater and Christian Slater (no relation).

In *Flesh and Blood* the Dutch director Paul Verhoeven, who has made a reputation of sorts with vaguely arty sex and sensation, turns his attention to the period spectacular. This American-backed film, with its ludicrous, anachronistic, four-letter English dialogue, imagines a violent society somewhere in Europe at the turn of the sixteenth century. Rutger Hauer leads a band of marauding mercenaries, who dress up in red clothes and proclaim themselves a commune. It is an unremitting farrago of rape, revenge, pillage, slaughter, torture and more rape for good measure. Hauer's miraculous escape from death in his burning castle at the end of the film is an ominous sign that we may be in for a sequel to this one too.

David Robinson

Theatre

Comic absurdity

The Winter's Tale
Stratford

The cover of the RSC programme presents a grim-faced Jeremy Irons wearing a crown from a Christmas cracker. As this is a Terry Hands production it would be misleading to say that this sets the tone for a show that revels in total contrast, but it is certainly an accurate lead to the first act. The implication is that past performances have been over-impressed by the figure of Leontes. How can such a man be taken seriously? - a husband who for no reason goes mad with jealousy and embarks on acts of murder and impiety to punish his blameless wife. He is no more a king than a child playing the tyrant with his toy animals.

Accordingly, the Sicilian court shrinks it to a nursery, and Mr Irons, twitchily gnawing his lip even before the onset of suspicion, offers a Leontes from whom every real trait has been studiously drained. Simultaneously feverish and furtive, he treats his court as a pack of slaves to be pushed about and screamed at if they put up the least resistance to his will. His delivery is an obnoxious avalanche, halting with a screech on single tormenting words. Nothing exists outside his own fantasy; and, when the trial scene arrives, he gets busy stage-managing it himself, hauling furniture about before drunkenly climbing on to the throne to defy the judgement of the Oracle.

The obvious advantage of this is that it acknowledges Shakespeare's way of telling the story. What happens happens; and no psychological digging is going to disclose any buried motives. If, however, the performance is meant to cast any light on the nature of tyranny (the programme also includes portraits of Amin and others) it fails, as the prevailing effect is one of comic absurdity as when Mr Irons puts a blanket over his head to escape the accusations of Gillian Barge's Paulina, or where she thrusts his progeny into his arms and he is left, gnashing his teeth.

Apart from Miss Barge, who comes over as a no-nonsense mother who has been played up once too often, no other characters emit any independent spark of life. Even Penny Downie's Hermione amounts to no more than a radiantly anonymous pattern of virtue; reduced, by the production scheme, to another inert victim from the toy-box.

Designed by Gerard Howland and Alexander Reid, the show is extremely beautiful. Sicilia, first glimpsed through a gauze tent, consists of an austere furnished space with, behind it, a semi-transparent mirror which at once throws back liquid reflections of white-costumed figures and the image of a giant crystal turning to the implacable passage of time. When the action moves to Bohemia, white gives way to bold earth colours (the place is evidently enjoying a wool glut), where the shearing party has echoes of Gauguin's Tahiti and even the figure of Time descends in a winged fleece.

The contrast is total; and yet the two worlds are visually related. To take one brilliant example, the huge bearskin on the first-act nursery floor later arises into the gigantic predator that devours Antigonus in that most recalcitrant of all Shakespeare's stage directions.

The hero of Part II is undoubtedly Joe Melia's Autolycus: one great clown played by another, and supported by a splendidly full-blooded score from Nigel Hess which helps Melia to close the comic time-gap both in his solo numbers and in converting the ballad scene into a company tango. Various disguised in mendicant rags and as a fairground Abernazer, he excels in the light-fingered routines, but saves his best for the end with the two upwardly mobile shepherds when he starts handing things back.

What the production does not prepare is the final reconciliation between these two worlds. The events are staged with great elegance, but without the sense of natural magic or the emotions of reunion.

Irving Wardle

Opera

Images unsubtly presented

The Marriage of Figaro
Theatre Royal,
Glasgow

This last new production of the season does nothing to raise the present dismal fortunes of Scottish Opera. The orchestral playing under György Fischer is coarse, lifeless and accident-prone; the singing is alarmingly patchy; and John Cox's direction is stiff where it concerns the principal characters, clownish in its treatment of the subsidiary cast.

As readers of the interview with him on this page on Wednesday will be aware, he squares up to the opera by way of its final act, and it is a nice conceit that the stage picture should gradually open to the outdoors. The first act is in a windowless room; the second

has just a balcony at the side (this is Cherubino's route of escape). Only in the third do we begin to see the green shade of nature, which, in a pretty untamed state, is the setting for the fourth.

The trouble is that this scheme has little to do with the opera, whose resolution is not gradual but sudden. Moreover, in order to avoid the threat of claustrophobia in the first two acts, John Byrne's sets are obliged to include some puzzling architectural features, quite apart from the Jugendstil open-work panels that look odd in interiors that are otherwise faithful to the eighteenth century.

The other trouble is that Mr Cox's general plan is not matched by any subtlety in the presentation and handling of

the characters. The experience is rather like that of flicking through an album of photographs of Mozart productions 30 or 40 years old: there are the same decorous smiles, the knowing gestures, the plain ranks of front-faced soloists doggedly going through ensembles.

Much therefore rests on the singing, and only three members of the cast are equal to the enormous burden they have to carry: Diana Montague as Cherubino, Jonathan Summers as the Count and Rosa Mannion however briefly as a delicious Barbarina.

Miss Montague is a great pleasure; one might imagine that the ability to sing Mozart was a lost art were it not for her, and she portrays the amorous, sensual youth with great sensitivity and neatness of observation. Mr Summers also cuts a sensual figure, in the way he stands and moves (he is helped by the production's most striking costumes) and in the dark strength of his singing, artfully worked around a bullish bel canto. Roderick Earle's Figaro is also dark-toned, but too much spoken, and Isobel Buchanan's Susanna gives cause for concern in the lack of vocal control.

Paul Griffiths



Sensual charms: Diana Montague and Jonathan Summers as Cherubino and the Count

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Some consolation was to be drawn from the memory of Justus Frantz's performance of Dvorák's Piano Concerto before the interval. Paucity of matter and over-elaboration of manner has, it is true, pushed the work to the edges of the repertoire. And, although Frantz had skilfully tailored Dvorák's occasionally unplayable version to his own fingertips, it is easy to see why it stays there.

Orchestra and piano seem too often either to be searching for a *raison d'être* or to be transmuting their indecisiveness into rhetorical gesture to woo the applause which they were so readily granted. Appreciation was well deserved, though, for its gently meditative Andante, and for the conviction and enjoyment brought to its garrulous finale by Frantz himself.

Hilary Finch

Concerts

Hallé/
Skrowaczewski
Festival Hall

We must be getting spoilt. A few years ago the combination of Mozart's and Mahler's most imposing symphonies in one programme would probably have packed the Festival Hall, whereas it was not much more than half full for this visit by the Hallé Orchestra. But here was an absolutely magnificent performance of Mahler's Sixth Symphony, one which did justice to a great work and which also showed a thing or two to some London orchestras.

Stanislaw Skrowaczewski is evidently one of those conductors with an uncanny gift for tempo. One of the symphony's interpretative problems is finding exactly the right pace for the first movement's pounding march-rhythms, yet the opening bars here were impressively launched the work's massive structure. A brisk tempo for the Scherzo necessitated some sharp gear-changes but brought out the music's underlying tone of brutality to startling effect.

Skrowaczewski's wonderful structural sense was no less apparent in the Adagio, its poignant beauty captured in a shimmering blend of wind and strings. The finale's gigantic trajectory came across with flawless lucidity, the conductor skilfully dove-tailing the slow, brooding material of the Introduction into the tumultuous main Allegro.

At all points the orchestra provided an object-lesson in

Mahler-playing. The brass were powerful but never crude; the strings delivered Mahler's torrential semiquaver passagework with remarkable accuracy; in the Adagio, the woodwind shone as required. Earlier, Skrowaczewski had chosen to set Mozart's "Prague" Symphony in a cool climate (Scandinavia rather than Bohemia, I think) - not inappropriately, given the upheavals to come.

Malcolm Hayes

LPO/Eschenbach
Festival Hall

Something of the impatience and cynicism so characteristic of our own decade seemed to tinge Dvorák's Ninth Symphony on Tuesday in its performance by the London Philharmonic and Christoph Eschenbach.

The sort of high adrenaline, whiplash treatment which could be justified, on one level at least, in Dvorák's *Carnival Overture* was meted out relentlessly in the symphony. Eschenbach's baton has a way of fashioning a deceptive mix of elegance and excitement by exploiting a work's surface energies by pointing up the subdivisions of a phrase, driving every accent and honing brass and woodwind to knife-point.

It creates, though, a performing tension which has little to do with the music's internal, organic tensions, and is in Dvorák's case counter-productive to its spirit. The refusal to grant the flute a second's grace before the entry of the first movement's second subject merely reduced

excitement to a sense of carping haste; and the attenuated phrasing of the Largo, merely effete without the support of any underlying momentum, was poor compensation for the sour cor anglais solo.

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Hilary Finch

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By highlighting important events well in advance and writing with refreshing simplicity, *Review* takes a very practical approach to the arts and entertainment.

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Each week, its sharp reviews cover films, theatre, opera and concerts, along with dance, art, records, books and television.

The Preview section tells you what's coming up in time to book.

And the listings are national, not just for London. As for compelling topics: Woody Allen apart, this week *Review* compares the world's finest tenors, Domingo and Pavarotti.

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REVIEW

The new arts and entertainment magazine

Another 800 jobs lost in Ulster

By Richard Ford

The ailing economy of Northern Ireland yesterday received its third blow to jobs in a week as Rothmans, the cigarette manufacturer, announced the closure of its plant with the loss of almost 800 jobs.

The Carreras plant at Carrickfergus will close in August as part of a plan to concentrate cigarette production in northern England.

The announcement is a serious blow for a province where the unemployment rate is 21.4 per cent and in particular for east Antrim where earlier this week the General Electric Company and a tool company announced redundancies which bring the total job losses in the area to 1,013.

Today the Industrial Development Board will issue figures showing a substantial shortfall in its aim of 5,750 new jobs in 1985. There is concern that political uncertainty is affecting investment.

The board is having urgent talks with the management of Mackies, a Belfast engineering company employing 1,000 workers, after a bank suggested a time limit of five months for the repayment of a £7 million loan.

Unionist politicians said the job losses were evidence of British commercial withdrawal from the north, but the redundancies further highlight the decline of Northern Ireland's manufacturing industry and the growing reliance on public sector employment and the British Exchequer.

In six years Protestant-dominated Carrickfergus has lost more than 3,000 jobs with the closure of plants by Courtauld and ICI and the cigarette factory was the last major manufacturing industry employer in the town. It supplied the whole UK market and is to be shut because of falling sales due to the anti-smoking lobby and the last budget increase of 11p on a packet of 20 cigarettes.

Night of violence sweeps through jails

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs
Correspondent

One prison, Northye in East Sussex, and enough cells to fill another, were put out of action during rioting which swept through the jail system.

Prisoners at Northye gained control of the jail, causing extensive damage to buildings and burning them. Many prisoners surrendered to staff and police outside the prison.

About 400 prisoners were taken into police custody and at one stage up to 40 were armed. Ten prisoners were unaccounted for, the Home Office said yesterday afternoon. There were no fatalities.

There was serious trouble in at least 17 jails. Those included:

● **Pennineville:** Sit-down in exercise yard by 20 inmates for an hour and a half.

● **Leicester:** Sit-down in wing by 40 remand prisoners after staff disobeyed the governor's order on controlled unlocking. There was a full alert in the night.

● **Castington, Morpeth:** A short, intense disturbance in the night. Thirty cells might have been put out of use.

● **Deerholt, Co Durham:** Cell hanging and materials, some alight, thrown from windows.

● **Pucklechurch, near Bristol:** Brickwork in one wing damaged. Some fires in yard.

● **Highpoint, Suffolk:** Small fires, one in roof of a unit put out by night staff.

● **Ashford Remand Centre, Middlesex:** Passive sit-down by 40 inmates for an hour in the dining room.

● **Norwich:** Disturbance in one wing.

● **Northallerton, North Yorkshire:** Banging on cell doors.

● **Stafford:** Fire on canteen roof.

● **Bristol:** Sit-down in yard, fire in C wing, cell doors smashed to release other prisoners. Some prisoners on roof.

Some prisoners tried to break into one wing and administration block. More prisoners in staff room, hot-plates smashed, hampering breakfast preparations. Police called to badly damaged A wing, from which 224 inmates were moved. Damage to another wing.



Aerial view yesterday of the burnt remains of Northye prison after rioting during which they set fire to cells.

● **Lewes, Sussex:** Sixty-seven prisoners in F wing refused to return to cells. Some prisoners on roof.

● **Erlestoke Youth Custody Centre, Wiltshire:** Mass break-out from one unit after disruption in which 40 inmates were thought to have escaped and 27 were still at large yesterday morning.

● **Wayland, Norfolk:** Nine inmates on roof.

● **Wymott, Lancashire:** Major riot at midnight, with prisoners injured and the jail out of control. Police ringed the perimeter and entered with the fire brigade to tackle a fire. Staff gradually regained control. There was extensive damage and four inmates were taken to hospital.

The prison during the height of rioting with firemen unable to enter as 40 prisoners were still at large.

Jail riot talks as officers end action

Continued from page 1

of government investment in the service, said the Labour government had ignored all prison building. The prison officers' action had been salutary for them.

Speaking of the need for early resolution of the dispute, Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief opposition spokesman on Home Affairs, said: "It is here, especially after last night's events which could and should have been foreseen, that the Home Secretary has inescapable responsibility."

The worst-affected jail was Northye, two miles from Bexhill town centre, East Sussex. Thirteen main buildings housing 450 prisoners were destroyed. After they were set alight, flames were visible five miles away in Hastings.

The trouble began when two officers were threatened and others were sent in to escort them to safety. Ring-leaders were masked. The jail has a low security category and houses prisoners mainly convicted of dishonesty.

There was serious trouble in at least 17 jails. By yesterday morning the Home Office was saying: "The current situation is stable. Staff have for the most part indicated their willingness to work under governors' directions."

But nine prisoners staged a roof-top protest at Wayland Prison, Norfolk, yesterday though two soon came down because it was cold.

In Wiltshire the hunt continued for 17 youths still on the run from Erlestoke. Police from two counties were using a helicopter to scour the countryside. At Northye, 10 prisoners were unaccounted for. Four prisoners were detained in hospital with cuts out of eight believed to have been injured after more than 800 inmates went on the rampage at Wymott Prison, Lancashire.

Today's events

Royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits Leighton House Museum, W14, 3.30.
Princess Anne visits South-east and opens the reconstructed West Wing of Nazareth House, London Rd, 10.30; later she lunches with The Mayor of Southwark, Porters Restaurant, South Church Rd, 1.45; and opens a new Abbeyfield Home for the Elderly, Archer House, Landon Rd, Billericay, 3.05.

New exhibitions

Model Railway Exhibition 1986: Bristol Exhibition Centre, Canon's Rd, today 3 to 9, tomorrow and Sun 10 to 7, Mon 10 to 6 (ends May 5).

Exhibitions in progress

Spring paintings and original prints by contemporary Cotswold artists. The Cross Tree Gallery, Fikins, Glouce, Tues to Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5.30 (ends May 31).

Paintings and watercolours by Philip Wilson Steer; Museum and Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends May 10).
Egyptian landscapes: weavings from the Ramesside Museum, Wexham, Wexham, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5 (ends May 17).

Cityscape: drawings and paintings by various artists; Colin Jellicoe Gallery, 82 Portland St, Manchester, Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 1 to 5 (ends May 17).
Scottish ceramics by members of the Scottish Pottery

Association: The Crawford Art Centre, St Andrews, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends May 25).

Last chance to see

Flower paintings by Peter Biggs; The Portico Library and Gallery, 57 Mosley St, Manchester, 9.30 to 4.30.

Glass, sculpture and prints; Frome Museum Gallery, 1 North Parade, Frome, 10 to 4.

Music

Piano recital by Howard Shelley; The Pavilion, Harbour St, Broadstairs, 7.45.

Recital by Beryl Kirkman-Oliver (soprano) and Robert Hayes (piano); Grundy Art Gallery, Queen St, Blackpool, 12.45.

Concert by the Northern Sinfonia of England; The Sands Centre, Carlisle, 7.30.

Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra; Wyvern Theatre, Swindon, 7.30.

General

Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural Show: The Showground, Wintborne, Newark, Notts, today and tomorrow 8 to 6.

British Beautiful Homes and Gardens; Ripley Castle, Nr Harrogate, today, tomorrow and Monday 10 to 6.

National Garden Festival; 180 acres of gardens, exhibitions, displays and special events; 10 to dusk each day; for details call 0783 287789 and ask for visitor information or Festival on 0783 274777 (ends Oct 26).

Top Films

The top box-office films in London:

- 1 (2) Out of Africa
- 2 (1) Absolute Beginners
- 3 (9) Jagged Edge
- 4 (5) A Room with a View
- 5 (3) Fright Night
- 6 (1) Reno - Unarmed and Dangerous
- 7 (1) Caravaggio
- 8 (4) White Nights
- 9 (7) Clockwise
- 10 (6) Ran

The top films in the provinces:

- 1 Out of Africa
- 2 Absolute Beginners
- 3 Clockwise
- 4 White Nights
- 5 Spies Like Us
- 6 Reno - Unarmed and Dangerous
- 7 Caravaggio
- 8 White Nights
- 9 Clockwise
- 10 Ran

Supplied by Screen International

Top video rentals

- 1 (1) A Nightmare on Elm Street
- 2 (2) A View to a Kill
- 3 (4) Desperately Seeking Susan
- 4 (8) Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment
- 5 (5) Return of the Jedi
- 6 (3) Missing in Action 2: The Beginning
- 7 (4) Suck
- 8 (6) Eyes
- 9 (9) Furling
- 10 (10) American Ninja

Supplied by Video Starways

Anniversaries

Births: Alessandro Scarlatti, composer, Palermo, Italy, 1660; Jerome K. Jerome, novelist, Three Men in a Boat and playwright, Walsall, 1859; Theodore Herzl, Zionist, Budapest, 1860.

Deaths: Leonardo da Vinci, Court, France, 1519; William Beckford, writer, author of Vathek, Bath, 1844; Giacomo Meyerbeer, composer, Paris, 1864; Nancy Viscountess Astor, first woman to sit in Parliament, Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire, 1964.

Food prices

Shoppers will find a wide variety of fish to choose from this week with sea bream, turbot, brill and skate as well as the usual favourites, cod, haddock, Dover and lemon sole, herrings, coley and mackerel.

Prices vary according to regions but most areas will find haddock, whiting and dab cheaper. Lamb prices are still going up with 8p a lb on leg and best end chop in London and the South-east. New Zealand lamb leg is up 2p a lb. Beef topside and silverside to a penny a pound this week. However there is a slight increase on stewing and frying steaks and boneless brisket. Pork prices are stable.

Good offers from shops and supermarkets this week are: Sainsbury's top side, top rump and sirloin £1.88 a lb and boneless leg of pork £1.59 a lb; Sainsbury's frozen minced beef 79p a lb and 5lb packs 69p a lb; Tesco: boneless brisket of beef £1.38 a lb, small ribs on the bone £1.64.

Cape Grassy Smith's Golden Delicious and New Zealand Coxes 35-55p a lb, Avocados 30-60p each Cape black Barlinka grapes 55-55p a lb and Chilian and Australian sultana grapes 80p-£1.30, small and medium pineapples 60p-£1 each and strawberries 55-75p a punnet.

Cape broccoli at 50-70p each, cauliflowers 14-20p a lb, spring greens 28-40p, courgettes 30-40p and cauliflower 40-65p. Dutch, English, Jersey and Guernsey hot-house tomatoes 70-80p a lb.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Bill, and other Bills, remaining stages.

Lords (11): Debate on EEC maritime transport policy.

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge will be raised today at 9.45am approximately.

Lighting-up time

London 8.55 pm to 5.00 am
Bristol 9.04 pm to 5.00 am
Birmingham 9.25 pm to 4.55 am
Manchester 9.10 pm to 4.51 am
Preston 9.12 pm to 5.25 am

Yesterdays

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, F
London 11.1, 52, 53
Bristol 11.1, 52, 53
Birmingham 11.1, 52, 53
Manchester 11.1, 52, 53
Preston 11.1, 52, 53

The pound

Australia \$ 2.26
Canada \$ 1.16
Hong Kong \$ 7.80
Japan ¥ 160.00
New Zealand \$ 1.50
Singapore \$ 2.46
Switzerland Sfr 2.00
Taiwan NT\$ 20.00
Thailand Baht 50.00
US Dollar \$ 1.50

Portfolios Gold

11.11 for any reason The Times Portfolio Gold rules are as follows: 1. The Times Portfolio Gold is a normal weekly Times Portfolio with the addition of gold shares.

How to play - Daily Dividend On each day your unit will be divided into 100 shares. The Times Portfolio Gold will be divided into 100 shares. The Times Portfolio Gold will be divided into 100 shares.

Check your overall total against the Stock Exchange Prices paid. If your overall total matches the Times Portfolio Gold, you have won the prize. The prize is a share of the total prize fund, which is £100,000.

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Travel news

British Rail are running extra trains over the May Day holiday. Additional trains will be run on many InterCity routes. Please check your travel details in advance at local stations and reserve tickets on popular routes.

Today: There will be a normal weekday service today. Tomorrow and Sunday: Normal services on most routes. Central rail engineering works between Preston and Carlisle will result in the diversion of Anglo-Scottish services, allow approx. 15 minutes to your journey time.

Monday: Modified weekend services with some early morning and late evening trains being withdrawn. Southern Region will have a Sunday service, but there will be no service on many routes. Some stations normally closed on Sunday will remain open.

Roads

London and South-east A40: Roadworks at the junction with North Circular Rd and Finchley Ave, near Stonebridge Park, during the night will cause delays for traffic travelling between Kent and Essex. A25 approach road will cause delays for traffic travelling between Kent and Essex.

The Midlands M6: Two lane closures between junctions 15 (A46 Northampton) and 16 (A508 Northampton South). The M6 will be closed between junctions 15 and 16 from 10.30pm to 4.30am.

South-west M5: Two lane closures in each direction. M5: Two lanes southbound and only one lane northbound with contraflow flow of Birmingham between junction 4 (Birmingham) and 5 (Birmingham). The M5 will be closed between junctions 4 and 5 from 10.30pm to 4.30am.

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Weather

An anticyclone over the southern Baltic will decline slowly and drift E. A depression is expected to develop to the SW of Britain, with a warm S to SE airstream covering most districts.

6 am to midnight

London, Midlands, Wales, NW, central N England: Sunny periods after early mist patches, chance of a shower later; wind SE moderate; max temp 18C (64F).

SE England, East Angles: Sunny periods becoming more cloudy with chance of a shower later; wind SE moderate; max temp 18C (64F), cooler on coasts.

Central S, SW England, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals after early mist patches, chance of a shower later; fog patches on channel coasts; wind SE moderate; max temp 17C (63F), cooler on coasts.

E, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Highlands, Aberystwyth, Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, coastal fog patches, some sunny intervals, especially inland; wind SE moderate; max temp 14C (57F), but rather cold near coasts.

Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, a little drizzle in places, but sunny intervals developing; wind S or SE moderate; max temp 12C (54F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Generally similar, but outbreaks of thundery rain developing over England and Wales spreading to remaining districts.

Second Aberdeen: Restoring work between Dyce and Airport Rd delays Edinburgh: With restrictions westbound in Colinton Rd at Polwarth Terrace; avoid if possible.

Lighting-up time

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Bristol 9.04 pm to 5.00 am
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Manchester 9.10 pm to 4.51 am
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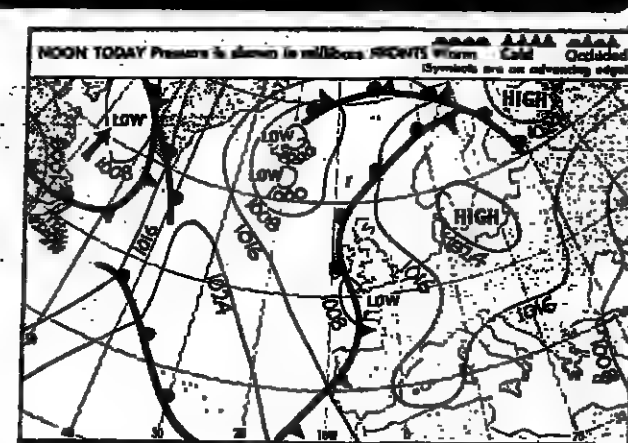
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High Tides			
Location	AM	PM	HT
London Bridge	8.59	8.18	5.8
Aberdeen	8.51	8.11	5.4
London Bridge	8.59	8.18	5.8
Aberdeen	8.51	8.11	5.4
London Bridge	8.59	8.18	5.8
Aberdeen	8.51	8.11	5.4
London Bridge	8.59	8.18	5.8
Aberdeen	8.51	8.11	5.4
London Bridge	8.59	8.18	5.8
Aberdeen	8.51	8.11	5.4

Notes: Blue dots: bc-blue sky and clouds; c: cloudy; r: rain; s: sun; f: fog; d: drizzle; w: wind; t: tide; h: high; l: low; m: moon; p: pressure; t: temperature; c: cloud; r: rain; s: sun; f: fog; d: drizzle; w: wind; t: tide; h: high; l: low; m: moon; p: pressure; t: temperature.

Tide estimated in metres: 1m=3.28084ft

Around Britain

East Coast: Scarborough 8.0, 19.55 bright; Bridlington 8.0, 19.55 bright; Cromer 8.2, 19.55 bright; Great Yarmouth 8.2, 19.55 bright; Lowestoft 8.2, 19.55 bright; Felixstowe 8.2, 19.

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1374.0 (-20.8)
FT-SE 100
1640.1 (-20.4)
USM (Datastream)
120.26 (-0.25)

THE POUND

US Dollar
1.5290 (-0.0210)
W German mark
3.3653 (+0.0080)
Trade-weighted
76.3 (-0.2)

Syndicates halted

The committee of Lloyd's insurance market has ordered two syndicates run by Postgate & Denby underwriting agency to cease writing new business, because they could not secure the necessary errors and omissions cover beyond April 30.

Marine syndicate 488/532 and non-marine syndicate 839 stopped writing business yesterday. The other P&D syndicates have been transferred to alternative agencies with the approval of the committee.

The two suspended syndicates are thought to have a capacity of about £110 million. Mr Michael Bassett, managing director of P&D said the board was making efforts to enable the syndicates to start trading again within days rather than weeks.

Minet growth

Minet Holdings, the Lloyd's insurance broker, made taxable profits in 1985 of £30 million, a rise of 28.7 per cent. The total dividend was raised 28.4 per cent to 8p.

Temps, page 19

TPS debut

Technology Project Services is joining the stock market via a placing of 1.97 million shares at 140p each, valuing the whole company at £6.7 million. Dealings are expected to start on May 8.

Temps, page 19

Wellcome dip

Profits at Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals company, dipped from £71 million to £64.2 million in the six months to March 31. Turnover was down from £507 million to £498 million. As expected, there is no interim dividend.

Temps, page 19

Bid approach

Brickhouse Dudley, the West Midlands iron founder which manufactures drainage products and manhole covers, said yesterday an approach had been received, which could lead to an offer for the company. The shares jumped 14p to 126p, valuing the company at £20 million.

Scotch cheer

Scotch exports rose 4 per cent in the first quarter, compared with the same period of last year, according to the Scotch Whisky Association. Earnings on the exports were at a record £244 million, an 8 per cent rise.

Barham leaps

Barham Group, whose interests include advertising services, stock market investment newsletters and property, raised pre-tax profits by 140 per cent last year to £1.39 million. Turnover during the year more than doubled to £10.9 million against £4.94 million. The dividend goes up from 1.2p a share to 2p.

Agency grows

Wight Collins Rutherford Scott, the advertising agency, is about to embark on a big expansion drive. It is acquiring agencies in Britain and the US, stock market sources said. The British agency is understood to be SCO, which has annual billings of £18 million.

MARKET SUMMARY

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RIBS	8170 (+24)
Pepper	1740 (+12)
Belway	3380 (+10)
MR. Elett	3800 (+3)
Brickhouse Dudley	380p (+12)
BSR	120p (+8)
Roundtree	540p (+22)
Boosey & Hawes	485p (+36)
Associated Heat	148p (+14)
Asken Hume	278p (+35)
Continental Micro	245p (+40)
MMT Computing	250p (+40)
BM Group	250p (+40)
Roberts Adair	230p (+25)

FALLS

Alfred Lyons	800p (-8)
Blue Circle	700p (-10)
BT	220p (-5)
Tate & Lyle	177p (-8)
Babcock	250p (-6)
Deta Group	180p (-15)
Tower Kinsley	175p (-15)
Lee Cooper	375p (-15)
IC Gas	84p (-10)
Petraco	85p (-20)
Prudential	757p (-10)
Legal & General	170p (-10)
Cooper (Frederick)	91p (-5)
Sunbeam Wooley	91p (-5)

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$345.80 PM \$345.10
COMEX	\$345.00 \$45.50 (\$225.25)
225.75	
New York	

British shares lose £3.2bn after Wall Street slide

By Richard Lander

A combination of the largest one-day fall on Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average and a hefty rights issue from the Prudential insurance group sent share prices tumbling in London yesterday.

A total of £3.2 billion was wiped off the value of shares as the FT 30-share index lost 21.8 points to 1373.1 and the 100-share FT-SE indicator tumbled 20.4 points to 1640.1. All the damage was inflicted in the morning as the London market opened more than 33 points lower on the FT-SE index as jobbers marked down prices to deter sellers scared by the sharp falls on Wall Street and rumours of the Prudential issue.

The first hour was spent

recouping about half of these losses but the rally ran out of steam and prices slipped again.

City analysts said the equity market, which rose strongly in the first quarter of the year on the outlook for lower interest rates and oil prices, has started to become more sensitive to short-term factors.

In particular, institutions are thought to be worried about having enough cash to pay for various share commitments. The £357 million Prudential issue comes after last month's £406 million rights call from Saatchi and Saatchi and the large placing of Guinness shares in the wake of its successful bid for Distillers.

Gifts followed a similar pattern to equities, with a midday rally failing to stick. Prices of some bonds closed as they had started the day, up to half a point down on last night's finish.

Wednesday's slump on Wall Street was the second sharp loss in a row. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 41.91 points to 1,783.98 after dropping 18 points on Tuesday.

Analysts attributed the change in sentiment in New York to worries over the American economy and the \$14.5 billion trade deficit recorded in March. Share selling by operators in the

stock index futures markets was also noted.

According to one trader: "There was a feeling over there that they'd had all the good news about oil and interest rates and it was a good time to take profits."

On the foreign exchange markets, the pound fell to \$1.5287 from \$1.55 on Wednesday in quiet trading ahead of next week's economic summit in Tokyo, while the sterling trade-weighted index fell 0.2 to 76.3.

The dollar was generally buoyant after remarks by the president of the Bundesbank, Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl who said he did not want to see the dollar drop further against the mark.

TSB gives insurance free with mortgage

By Richard Thompson
Banking Correspondent

The competition in the mortgage market as the house-buying season gets into full swing intensified yesterday when the Trustee Savings Bank announced a new home loan package.

It includes a one percentage point cut in its home loan rate, the offer of free home contents insurance and a loan guarantee certificate to new borrowers.

The offer of free home contents insurance — so far offered by no other lenders — is the latest in a series of special packages put out by mortgage institutions to attract new customers in an increasingly competitive market.

The TSB is reducing its mortgage rate from 12.5 to 11.5 per cent. Although that is half a point above the rates charged by most banks and building societies, it includes mortgage protection insurance on the first £50,000 of a loan. The bank says the cost of the insurance accounts for the extra 0.5 per cent charged on its mortgage rate.

The TSB is introducing free home contents insurance to new borrowers until September 30, although the offer may be extended. The bank said that the saving on standard contents insurance cover would range from around £30 to £270 a year but most customers would save about £60 as a result of the offer.

The new mortgage package includes a loan guarantee certificate valid for three months from the acceptance of a mortgage application. The certificate will guarantee the borrower a loan up to a specified amount during the three months as long as his chosen property meets the TSB's security requirements.

The certificate is designed to ease a buyer's negotiations with vendors and estate agents by giving him secure proof of access to a home loan.

Although other institutions, such as Barclays and National Westminster banks, offer similar mortgage contents insurance, the TSB's mortgage insurance offer is so far unique in the mortgage market.

● Mortgage lending by the building societies appears to be about to set a record, according to estimates for April by the Building Societies Association yesterday. It estimates commitments at above £3 billion, £200 million more than the record set in October.

Advances should also reach record levels.

£357m cash call by Prudential

By Alison Easton

The Prudential Corporation, Britain's largest life assurance company, yesterday announced a £357 million rights issue, the second largest rights issue this year and the fourth largest on record.

The one-for-five issue of 60.3 million new shares has been priced at a substantial discount of 600p against a closing market price yesterday of the Pru's shares at 867p, down 25p.

The rights issue is unusual in that it has not been underwritten, something that has surprised the City where the Prudential earns significant underwriting fees.

The decision not to have underwriters was made to give maximum benefit to shareholders. The saving will come to about £7 million.

Mr Mick Newmarch, chief executive of Prudential Portfolio Managers, said that the money from the rights issue was not earmarked for anything specific, but was to allow the Pru to be alert to the large number of opportunities arising out of the deregulation of financial services and the big bang.

The Pru has entered new areas including estate agency, unit trusts and mortgage fi-



Mick Newmarch: Pru alert to big opportunities

nance. It has bought two chains of estate agents and has stated its intentions of building up a 500 chain of retail outlets.

It is presently negotiating with other agents, but expects the growth to be incremental rather than in fell swoops.

The Holborn Unit Trust division, started a year ago, now has £134 million under management and the Pru estimates it has attracted 30,000 new buyers.

Its mortgage business has also been expanding, although it is only at the moment acting as a broker for Citibank and does not lend its own money.

ICI wins battle over ethane tax 'grant aid'

By Jeremy Warner
Business Correspondent

Imperial Chemical Industries yesterday won the final round of a four-year battle with the Government over tax concessions given to its main oil rivals.

The House of Lords refused to allow the Government to challenge a Court of Appeal ruling last February in ICI's favour.

The Court of Appeal had ruled that tax concessions enjoyed by Shell, Esso and BP on the supply of the gas mixture ethane to affiliated companies constituted a "plan to grant aid" to the oil companies.

Yesterday's decision is a serious blow for Shell and Esso's £500 million Mossnorr petrochemical plant in Fife.

The new plant uses ethane as its feed stock and would have benefited from the tax concessions.

The Inland Revenue conceded last night that it would now probably have to abide by the Appeal Court decision and revise any valuation of ethane applied for tax purposes.

ICI had claimed that the ethane tax concessions would have serious consequences for its own petrochemical plant at Wilton, Teesside, and could mean redundancies among the plant's 9,000 workforce.

The Wilton plant uses naphtha gas as a raw material and would have been put at a competitive disadvantage by the tax concessions enjoyed by ethane-fed plants.

BP's ethylene making plant at Grangemouth, near Edinburgh, also enjoys the ethane tax concessions.

The Government's decision to make ethane a special case was an important factor in persuading Esso and Shell to go ahead with the Mossnorr project in 1981.

Previously, the two oil companies had made clear the plant would not be built without financial assistance from the Government.

Shell last night declined to comment on the implications of the House of Lords judgment.

Board post

Mr Hugh Jenkins, former head of the National Coal Board Pension Fund, has joined the board of Allied Dunbar Assurance, the unit-linked insurance group. Mr Jenkins will be group investment director with overall responsibility for Allied funds under management of more than £4 billion.

BP delays development of big N Sea oil field

By Teresa Poole

British Petroleum has for the first time postponed the development of a big North Sea field because of the fall in world oil prices.

Sir Peter Walters, the chairman, said yesterday that plans for the Miller field would be deferred for at least a year. Miller has reserves of about 360 million barrels and its development was scheduled to start this year. This has now been put back to next summer at the earliest, leading to production by 1992.

The field was discovered by Conoco in 1983 and, despite the collapsing oil price, has been considered one of the more robust of the recent North Sea projects. BP has roughly a half share and the rest is owned by Conoco, Enterprise Oil, and Santa Fe.

Sir Peter gave warning at BP's annual meeting that lower oil prices would mean losses on company oil stocks of £500 million during the first three months of this year, not including those from BP's 55 per cent share of Standard Oil.

He said there might have to be a reappraisal of BP's exploration strategy as fundamental as that undertaken



Sir Peter Walters: Thinking of reappraising strategy

over the past five years in the refining and marketing business.

"The projected upstream expenditure has already been reduced by 20 per cent for 1986. But it is the longer-term development of fields that is particularly in jeopardy," he said.

Sir Peter called on the Government to revise radically the taxation policy in the North Sea to provide financial resources for new investment.

He pointed out that petroleum revenue tax was increased in 1983 when high oil prices led to windfall profits for oil companies.

Bank and Treasury poised for battle over base rates

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Differences of opinion between the Treasury and the Bank of England on the pace of the decline in base rates are likely to come to a head next week.

On Tuesday, the Bank will publish money supply figures for the April banking month, which are expected to show a sharp rise in the sterling M3 money measure.

Market estimates point to a sterling M3 rise of 2.5 or 3 per cent in banking April, which would leave the 12-month growth rate above 16 per cent, compared with a target range of 11 to 15 per cent.

There will be special factors in the April figures, notably the likely surge in borrowing by companies to take advantage of 1985-86 capital allowances. According to some estimates, these could have produced a rise of £3.5 billion in bank lending last month.

Despite this, Bank officials will be inclined to take the

April money supply figures, with data showing unit wage and salary costs in manufacturing rising at about 7 per cent a year, as cause for extreme caution on base rates.

However, the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, has said that inflation should be the judge and jury of monetary policy, and the Treasury appears to be happy to see base rates fall as long as the recorded inflation rate is falling and the pound's value is holding up.

The inflation rate is expected to fall to about 3.2 per cent in April, compared with 4.2 per cent in March. And the pound, despite its fall against the dollar yesterday as dealers hedged their bets against possible outcomes of the Tokyo summit next week, does not present a barrier to lower rates.

Interpreting the stance of British monetary policy, already difficult, will become even more complicated in the

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Cathay flotation leaves BA on the runway

The demand for shares in Cathay Pacific Airlines has proved overwhelming in Hong Kong, apparently surprising Baring Brothers but few others. Swire Pacific and the Hongkong Bank (which previously split ownership 70-30) have sold 22.5 per cent of the highly profitable international airline largely for political reasons — to establish Cathay as an indisputably Hong Kong business in front of the transfer of the colony to China. So 7.5 per cent was passed to big local Chinese interests, principally Li Kashing's Cheung Kong/Hutchinson empire, with a further 6.5 per cent reserved for staff and local fund managers. In the event, the flotation was 55 times oversubscribed, with investors putting up a total of HK\$51 billion (£4.25 billion).

After the tremendous welcome City analysts are already expecting the shares to open at between HK\$5 and HK\$5.30 compared with the issue price of HK\$3.88 when dealings start on May 15. There is already a lucrative grey market in the Far East.

The distinction between the Cathay Pacific and Singapore Airlines of the airline business and predominantly European and transatlantic carriers such as British Airways or KLM is striking. Cathay is forecast earnings of at least HK\$1 billion (£85 million) for the year but optimists are hoping for more, given buoyant traffic and some fall in fuel prices. Yet that will be accomplished with only 20 aircraft compared with nearly 160 at BA, which will do well to have earned much more than £200 million pretax for the year just ended. Policies on aircraft depreciation and

sales account for some of the difference, but the real difference is that Cathay and SIA are young, fast-growing airlines, serving a lot of long-haul routes with young, modern aircraft.

BA has a relatively young fleet overall by big airline standards, but still needs to spend £500 million a year for the next 10 years to replace its ageing fleet of jumbos. That process will not be helped by remaining in the public sector. Yet the prospects of flotation seem to push further beyond the horizon by the week. Lord King and his men now have to face the aftermath of Libya, although at least fuel prices are now moving in the right direction.

The latest twist, the prospect of some further deregulation of European routes after Wednesday's judgment in the European Court, could go either way. BA certainly welcomes the move and is confident that it will be able to obtain a bigger share of markets against some flabby flag airlines, particularly in southern Europe, if the judgment really has some effect. But BA sees price flexibility in terms of special fares to fill planes rather than cuts on the businessman's routes and it remains to be seen if the licensing authorities open the door for a round of Laker-style competition.

In Whitehall's eyes, if not the City's, the prospect of more European deregulation seems unlikely to hasten the flotation of the world's favourite airline. It will have to grit its teeth as its Pacific cousins follow each other into the financial stratosphere.

Sticky issues for sugar

Tate & Lyle is well aware that its highly provisional counter-bid for S&W Berisford raises issues far beyond the conventional conundrums of takeover battles. The competition with Hillsdown and conceivably with others is fundamentally about the future and structure of the sugar industry in this country. Hillsdown so far has remained discreet on the deeper implications of its bid; as a potential monopoly Tate & Lyle had no choice but to bring it out into the open.

The rival offers also raise questions about British monopolies legislation, which now seems, not least in the way it is interpreted by the Office of Fair Trading, the Monopolies Commission and the Department of Trade, a faded and anachronistic copy of American statutes, drafted in another era for a different set of problems.

By deliberately shifting its ground from arguments about a potential national monopoly where it is vulnerable to the realities of European

competition Tate & Lyle has challenged, as indeed Guinness did in its successful pursuit of Distillers, the narrow concepts normally applied in Britain. In essence does it make sense for a monopoly to be judged by domestic criteria when the business is international and open to competition from powerful foreign rivals?

There is a third tier of argument about the bids for British Sugar. They should prod the Government out of the complacency which has characterized national sugar policy for too long.

Tate's bid stems partly from increasing concern about thin refining margins. Behind the desire to take over British Sugar is the real danger that cane refining in Britain will cease one day. Yet the Government professes to want competition in the market. How is this to be maintained if — historically extraordinary as it may seem — Tate were to close its refineries? This week's interim figures showed clearly that cane sugar refining is not profitable enough.

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TEMPUS

Good figures at Minet fail to lift PCW gloom

Poor old Minet Holdings. It produced 1985 pretax profits 28.7 per cent higher at £30 million and is believed to be on course for a leap of similar magnitude to £38 million profits this year. But the long shadow of the PCW affair is preventing its share price from reflecting its trading performance.

Its shares were almost unchanged yesterday at 35p, putting it on an historic rating of 12 and a prospective p/e of 9.3. Willis Faber, the premium stock of the sector, is trading on a prospective p/e of nearly 17.

Yet, as Minet was keen to point out, its compound taxable profits growth rate over the past six years has been 24 per cent compared with Willis's 23 per cent and its earnings growth has been 23 per cent compared with Willis's 26 per cent. On pure trading grounds Minet's shares should be at least 35p.

The difficulty with PCW is that it is impossible to quantify what it may end up costing Minet. With litigation threatened, the company is understandably not saying much. It made no further extraordinary provisions in 1985, after £9.5 million in 1984 relating to PCW. It is also sticking to its line that it has no legal liability for PCW names' losses.

However, with Lloyd's now pursuing a market solution, Minet is expected to be asked to put its hand in its pocket for perhaps £20 million or more. After being in the front line of the PCW affair for several years, Minet must be taking comfort from the fact that the 38 potential defendants of legal action by names include several other brokers.

Meanwhile, on the trading front brokerage growth accelerated in the second half to show 33 per cent underlying growth for the year. Profits would have been £3 million higher had 1984 end year exchange rates been used.

TPS

Technology Project Services (TPS) is an employment agency specialising in the supply of engineering staff on a contract basis. Its main assets are its database of highly-qualified engineers

who are available for work and its list of client companies who may need staff from time to time to work on specific projects.

Its skill is in matching the two — helping the client to define his needs in terms of manpower and satisfying this requirement with the individuals on its books.

The business began in 1970 as a British subsidiary of C&D Inc. which is now owned by the US Greyhound company, at a time when this type of agency was fairly common in America but was almost unknown in Britain.

Richard Avery, a senior manager of C&D, spotted the potential and has built up the business from scratch. He organized a management buy-out in July 1984 for £2 million, of which £400,000 came from TPS's management with the balance funded by institutions and bank loans.

Less than two years later, TPS is seeking a full listing on the Stock Exchange by way of a placing of 41.1 per cent of its shares by J. Henry Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank.

The placing price of 140p values the whole company at £6.7 million. After the placing, Mr Avery will be the major shareholder, with just under 30 per cent. The balance will largely be owned by the institutions who backed the original management buy-out.

The prospectus does not contain a profits forecast, but on earnings per share to December 31, 1985 of 7.9p, the shares will be issued on a multiple of 17.7.

The nearest comparison is the USM-quoted SAC International which differs from TPS in that it employs its own highly qualified staff to work on design contracts for big companies, whereas TPS will find the staff. SAC has an August year-end, and is on a prospective multiple of about 17.

The proceeds of the issue will amount to £2.76 million. Of this, Mr Avery will receive £1.4 million for the shares he is selling, amounting to just over 20 per cent of the company, leaving him with a stake valued at a further £2 million.

Most of the rest will be used to redeem the preference shares

issued at the time of the management buyout leaving £600,000 to add to working capital.

Wellcome

Wellcome's interim results — the first since it joined the stock market in February — may not have satisfied the punters who chased the shares as high as 338p in initial trading. But they were good enough for most investors for the shares to rise 2p to 290p yesterday.

Reported profits were down from £71 million to £64.2 million before tax, but that fall was due to exchange rate movements. There was an underlying increase of 26 per cent on sales which, adjusted for currency changes, rose by 16 per cent.

The implied improvement in margins was achieved despite higher research and development spending, notably on clinical trials for the Aids compound. Phase two trials are now underway in America, where 250 patients will use the drug for six months.

Sales of both Zovirax — the herpes treatment — and of Tricium, a muscle relaxant, were well up, especially in America. Wellcome hopes to gain approval for extending the application of Zovirax to shingles, a much larger market than herpes.

At home, sales grew by only 4 per cent and profits fell from £30.9 million to £28.6 million. The main disappointment, however, was at Cooper's Animal Health, the joint venture with ICI established in October 1984, which accounts for a fifth of group turnover.

Coopers lost about £1 million in the first half, before start-up costs of £400,000. The outlook for improved sales looks gloomy, following huge cuts in the New Zealand lamb population.

Assuming earnings for the full year are unchanged at 7.5p, the shares are trading on a premium multiple of 25. The price contains possibly as much as 30p for the treatment of Aids, which must be excessive given that the drug is unlikely to be commercially available for some years, assuming it passes the trials.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Rally fails to stop indexes closing 20 points lower

The stock market's confidence was severely tested yesterday after a record fall on Wall Street and confirmation of a massive rights issue from the mighty Prudential.

Jobbers slashed prices at the outset, but the move only attracted bargain-hunting, so that a sharp rally soon halved initial falls of more than 30 points in the indices.

During mid-session, prices tended to ease back again and by the close the FT 30-share index was down 20.9 points at 1,374.0. The FT-SE 100 index closed at 1,640.1, down 20.4 points.

Leading shares recorded losses on balance of between 5p and 17p, but dealers were quick to point out that little selling was in evidence.

Government stocks slipped by half a point. Other sectors dipped and rallied behind the leaders, but still ended with falls in the majority.

Beecham at 340p, Glaxo 96p, Hawker 59p and Vickers 48p were among the worst hit, down by 10p to 17p. ICI ended 3p easier at 929p, having touched 914p in early trading.

Prudential lost 38p to 864p on the £357 million cash-call, but there was some relief that the issue did not need to be underwritten due to the substantial discount.

Other life companies like Legal & General gave up 10p to 757p in sympathy. Take-over situations continued to stimulate interest. Rowtree jumped 23p to 540p on the revival of the old report of a bid from Suchard of Switzerland.

Brickhouse Dowley announced a possible approach, boosting the shares 12p to 126p. The predator was believed to be Glywedd, 4p lower at 396p.

APV improved by 8p to 543p, awaiting developments and Pegler Hattersley was hoisted 24p to 617p in reaction to the company's strong defence against the offer from F.H. Tomkins.

Roberts, Adlard, at 230p and Bessy & Hawkes, 200p, also in receipt of bid approaches, advanced 25p and 21p respectively. Seabeam Volsey fell 9p to 91p, following the company's statement on Wednesday, denying knowledge of reasons behind the recent strength of the share price.

A recent takeover favourite, IC Gas dipped 15p to 375p on fears that the reported talks with Petrofin had broken down. Associated Heat Services climbed 35p to 485p, after the agreed terms from Compagnie Generale de Chauffe.

Housebuilders were supported by a favourable press article. Bellway helped the mood by reporting almost doubled profits. The shares advanced 12p to 174p, while Bryant, at 139p, McAlpine, 423p, and Wilson Connolly, 513p, improved 3p to 5p. Blue Circle slipped 10p to 700p on news of the Sandlex sale to Akzo.

Wellcome hardened a penny to 190p after interim profits which were £4 million above expectations. A 5 per cent profit setback clipped 6p from Aberdeen Construction to 262p and acquisition news from the annual meeting cut 6p from Delta Group at 250p.

Takeover hopes prompted gains of 8p to 138p in BSR and 3p to 55p in Rockware. A newcomer, Debor from the Capel-Cure stable, recorded a 21p premium at 151p in first dealings.

Recent contracts continued to excite Continental Microsave at 278p, up 35p, but Frederick Cooper dipped 10p to 110p on the acquisition. Good profits boosted MMT Computing by 20p to 245p and Triefels advanced 3p to 90p on the profits recovery.

Recent good results help Roper Holdings "A" to a 3p rise at 139p.

Mr Longcroft, who lives in tax exile in Geneva, will remain executive chairman. Mr Smith will still therefore be reporting to Geneva, and in practice the change is unlikely to make much difference in practice to the running of the company.

Mr Smith joined the company when his group of family businesses, including Les Hasting Merchants and Simpson Garden Supplies, was taken over by Tricentrol. His career within the company has been primarily on the commercial side. He became deputy chairman in 1983.

During the year many of these points were improved to

Compagnie Generale de Chauffe.

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COMPANY NEWS

● **DAKS SIMPSON GROUP:** Half-year to Jan. 31, 1986. Interim dividend 1.75p (1.5p), payable June 21. Turnover £23.91 million (£19.48 million). Pretax profit £1.55 million (£1.23 million). Earnings per share 1.63p (1.21p).
● **ALEXANDER AND ALEXANDER SERVICES:** Quarter ended March 31, 1986. Operating revenues £249.8 million (£210.5 million). Pretax income £42.6 million (£27.5 million). Earnings per share 54 cents (35 cents).

● **BRITISH INVESTMENT TRUST:** Year to March 31, 1986. Total dividend 15.2p (14.2p). Total revenue £14.97 million (£14.42 million). Earnings per share 15.23p (14.77p). Net asset value per ordinary share 56p (46p).

● **WHITTINGTON ENGINEERING:** The company is reporting for the 10 months to Jan. 31, 1986, compared with the previous year's turnover £90,000 (£143 million). Profit before tax £99,000 (£100,000). Earnings per share, after tax, 10.63p (8.48p) and 8.62p (8.73p) before tax.

● **WEMESS INVESTMENT TRUST:** Half-year to March 31, 1986. Net assets value per share, excluding the interim dividend, 6.95p (6.01p). Profit before tax £382,000 (£477,000). Earnings per share 11.3p (11.3p).

● **HELIOS BATHS:** Not dividend (nil) for the year to Feb. 1, 1986. Turnover £7.32 million (£6.79 million). Pretax profit £488,000 (£533,000). Earnings per share 3.3p (3.4p).

● **HIGH ROOF INVESTMENT TRUST:** Total dividend for 1985 2.1p (1.95p). Pretax profit £392,074 (£409,100). Earnings per share 4.41p (3.13p).

● **ECORIC HOLDINGS:** Year to Jan. 31, 1986. Dividend 0.25p (nil). Turnover £2.23 million (£4.85 million). Pretax profit £163,000 (£104,000). Earnings per share, basic, 1.25p (0.75p) and 1.25p (0.75p) (1.25p).

● **CLARKE, NICKOLLS AND COOMBS:** Total dividend for 1985 amounted to 6p. Turnover £4.41 million (£1.5 million). Pretax profit £14,175 (£10,120). Earnings per share 3.2p (3.1p). The figures for 1984 have been restated following a change in accounting policy.

● **KEYSTONE INVESTMENT CO:** Interim dividend 4p (same) for the half-year to March 31, 1986. Proposed one-for-one scrip issue, carries income £748,340 (£679,000). Pretax revenue £143,121 (£61,054). Earnings per share 3.92p (3.1p).

● **BREAKEATE:** Turnover £12.04 million (£10.09 million) for 1985. Profit before tax £730,000 (£481,000). Earnings per share 11.1p (8.99p). Scrip issue to purchase the ordinary shares at 2.2p per share has been accepted and completed.

More company news on page 20

Co-op Bank increases profits by £700,000

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

The Co-operative Bank, the banking arm of the Co-operative retail movement, yesterday reported a pretax profit of £12.9 million for the year to January 11, a £700,000 increase compared with the year before.

But a £25,000 loss on associated companies' businesses left the banking group's profits virtually unchanged from the previous year.

Mr Peter Paxton, who is retiring as chairman, said that increased profitability was mainly due to a strong performance in domestic banking. The bank now has 4,000 banking points or "handybanks" for simple transactions in Co-operative stores.

During the year many of these points were improved to

New managing director at Tricentrol

Mr Roger Smith, at present deputy chairman of Tricentrol has been named managing director, a post previously held by the chairman, Mr James Longcroft.

Mr Longcroft, who lives in tax exile in Geneva, will remain executive chairman. Mr Smith will still therefore be reporting to Geneva, and in practice the change is unlikely to make much difference in practice to the running of the company.

Mr Smith joined the company when his group of family businesses, including Les Hasting Merchants and Simpson Garden Supplies, was taken over by Tricentrol. His career within the company has been primarily on the commercial side. He became deputy chairman in 1983.

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Figures from April 1984 to March 1985. Percentages are the ratio of fund price growth over the period to the price of the fund at the start of the period. The position each British National Life Fund attained compared to the performance of a further 100 funds.

If you are thinking about investing a lump sum or you are concerned about your pension situation, take a look at British National Life Assurance. Citicorp, one of the largest financial institutions in the world did just that and three months ago British National Life became part of the Citicorp group. When you consider British National Life's investment record you can see why. Over a three year period our four main life funds have never been out of the top five and our International Fund has consistently been the best performer.

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WELLCOME PLC INTERIM RESULTS 1986

Underlying growth masked by currency moves

Review by the Chairman, Mr A. J. Sheppard.

This is the first report to be issued to shareholders following the recent issue of our shares to the public in February. I would like to take the opportunity therefore of welcoming our new shareholders.

It has previously been indicated that exchange rate movements have a major effect on our results due to the large proportion of profits earned outside the U.K., particularly in North America. Exchange rates in the first half of this year changed considerably compared with the rates for the first half of last year. The U.S. dollar exchange rate is particularly important and the average rate for the first half of this year was \$1.43 compared with \$1.16 for the first half of last year, a movement adverse to us of 19%.

The movements in exchange rates are estimated to have affected the comparison between the two half years adversely by some £78.0m in respect of turnover and some

£20.0m in respect of profit on ordinary activities before taxation. If the results for the first half of 1985 were restated at the average exchange rates for the first half of 1986, turnover would have been £429.4m. On this basis turnover of £497.6m for the first

U.K. domestic market shows an increase of only 4% due to difficult trading conditions. The exchange rate movements have had a similar adverse effect upon exports from the U.K.

Profit on ordinary activities before taxation, similarly adjusted for exchange rate movements, would have been £31.0m for 1985. On this basis £64.2m for the first half of 1986 represents an increase of 20%. This primarily reflects the effect of the increased level of turnover. Expenditure on research and development has increased as envisaged at the time of the flotation.

Trading conditions in the world medical health market have remained difficult. The Group's business is now established in most countries. Its management is applying itself with great energy to the problems and it is recognised that the task ahead is not easy for them.

A full copy of the interim results is available on request from the Company Secretary.

INTERIM RESULTS for the half ended 31 March 1986 (Pence)	1st half 1986	1st half 1985	Year 1985
Turnover	497.6	507.5	1005.6
Profit before tax	64.2	71.0	121.7
Tax	34.7	38.5	60.0
Profit after tax	29.5	32.5	55.7
Minority interests in losses	1.1	1.1	3.9
Profit attributable to shareholders	30.6	33.6	59.6
Earnings per share	5.8p	4.2p	7.3p



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THE M&G GROUP

Holmes à Court reinstates bid for Broken Hill

By Richard Lander

The pursuit of the Australian oil, mining and industrial company Broken Hill Proprietary has moved a stage forward with Mr Holmes à Court reinstating his fourth bid for the company and BHP rejecting it as inadequate and malicious.

Mr Holmes à Court's Bell Resources group has reinstated the partial bid, which was withdrawn last month, at the same level of Aus\$7.70 per BHP share, including BHP's 20 cent final dividend, or Aus\$7.50 for shares that have gone ex-dividend.

Bell is offering to take half of each shareholding, but it wants to buy only between 18.4 and 20.7 per cent of BHP's issued capital to add to the 18.5 per cent stake it owns.

The offer price is barely above BHP's Aus\$7.36 market price and Australian share brokers say Mr Holmes à Court would have to raise the bid to perhaps Aus\$8 to stand a chance of success.

Mr Holmes à Court indicated he could return at a higher price when he withdrew the offer 10 days ago, while Bell Resources has just made right issue which raised about Aus\$630 million (£304 million).

In a statement to shareholders, the BHP chairman, Sir James Balderstone, criticized the offer and gave a warning that it was designed to ensnare



Holmes à Court may have to raise offer

shareholders stakes. He said: "There are escape provisions which may well enable Bell in the end to walk away without taking shares for which acceptances are lodged and paying for them."

The long-running saga of Mr Holmes à Court's chase of BHP, which started almost three years ago, is further complicated by the presence of two other groups whose intentions towards BHP are not yet fully clear.

Mr John Elliott's Elders EXL brewing and agriculture conglomerate, which at present has a bid for Allied-Lyons under review by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, swooped earlier this month to pick up a 19 per cent stake in BHP, while the Adelaide Steamship group owns between 4 to 5 per cent.

£12m tag on Dalepak flotation

By Clare Dobie

Dalepak Foods, a Yorkshire-based producer of gristlesteaks, is joining the stock market this month with a price tag of £12.9 million. It was started 10 years ago with capital of £75,000.

The three founders are selling some of their shares as part of the offer-for-sale. The chairman, Mr Jonathan Roper, is realizing £740,000, and two colleagues are raising £300,000 between them. After the offer-for-sale the directors and their families will own 56 per cent of the company's shares.

Since 1976 Dalepak has grown quickly and now accounts for 31 per cent of the market for frozen meat products. It supplies most of the larger supermarket chains, including J Sainsbury.

In the year to April 30, the company doubled production capacity at its main factory to 300 tonnes a week and it has plans to expand further in the ready meals market after the recent launch of its Budget Gourmet range.

Profits have increased from £77,000 before tax in the year to April 30, 1981 to an estimated £390,000 in the year just ended.

As part of the offer-for-sale Dalepak is raising £2.2 million after expenses of £600,000. This new money will reduce the gearing ratio from 120 per cent to 20 per cent.

In total 4.7 million shares are on offer at 107p each.

Key executives to leave Distillers

Six Distillers directors are resigning following the £2.7 billion takeover by Guinness. They include Mr Bill Forrest, aged 59, and Mr David Kerr, aged 60, both key executives. Mr Kerr was responsible for marketing scotch overseas and Mr Forrest handled strategic planning.

Lord Maclean, aged 69, a non-executive director for eight years, is also leaving. The others are Mr Cary Younghusband, aged 62, managing director of James Buchanan; Mr John Holbeck, aged 64, chairman of the white spirits division; and Mr Peter Whitley, aged 62, who was

responsible for marketing whiskies in the EEC.

Distillers declined to say whether any of the directors would receive compensation.

Four Guinness directors, including the chief executive, Mr Ernest Saunders, have joined the Distillers board.

Concern grows as America allows dollar's free-fall

By David Smith, Economics Editor

The dollar's slide has been a fact of life for most of the past 12 months. Since the September 22 meeting of the Group of Five at the Plaza Hotel in New York, the dollar has been pushed ever lower, with little concern about the pace of its fall.

Now, such concern is emerging. The Japanese were the first to be affected as the yen's rise against the dollar, first to an uncomfortable 200 against the dollar, then to a painful 180, and finally to an unbearable 166, hit vulnerable sections of industry.

This week, for the first time since the Plaza accord, the Germans, too, appear to have decided that enough is enough. The first Bundesbank intervention in support of the tumbling dollar appeared on Monday.

Yesterday, Herr Karl Otto Pohl, the Bundesbank president, said that the dollar's fall had gone far enough, and that a period of consolidation was now required.

The one thing that has been missing, so far at least, is any indication from the US Administration that something should be done to call a halt to the dollar's fall.

On Wednesday, Mr James

Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, said that the dollar's fall had been orderly and emphasized that the Administration had no target for the dollar. He also said that a further reduction in interest rates would be appropriate, hardly the thing for a finance minister concerned about his currency's value to volunteer.

The big difficulty about the dollar at present is that the effects of its fall are taking time to come through. This is the J-curve effect.

In the case of the US, the initial effect of the dollar's weakening is to produce a deterioration in the trade balance.

Figures released on Wednesday showed a \$14.52 billion trade deficit in March, against \$11.37 billion in February, mainly because of a rise in the import bill because of the lower dollar.

Japan and Germany, meanwhile, are running large trade surpluses. Japan's 1985/86 trade surplus, of \$61.64 billion, comfortably surpassed the previous record.

Germany, according to the forecast from the five leading research institutes in the Federal Republic, published this week, will run a trade surplus of DM100 billion (£29.9 billion) this year, easily the highest ever.

Just as the United States is experiencing the J-curve, where the initial effect of a currency decline boosts the cost of imports and only works through later to an increase in the volume of exports, so Japan and Germany are experiencing the inverted J-curve.

There is thus a danger of a self-feeding situation developing, whereby every fall in the dollar leads to an apparent deterioration in America's trading position, the response to which is a policy of trying to push the dollar down further.

The J-curve, and the inverse of it, appear to be fully recognized in Germany and Japan. But the US Administration looks to be quite happy to ignore it and to preside gleefully over the dollar's slide.

The foreign exchange markets have a natural tendency to overshoot — to push a currency beyond its equilibrium level and then to pull it back.

In the new era of semi-managed exchange rates, there is an opportunity to prevent this from happening. But it is clearly not possible without the full support of the United States.

COMPANY NEWS

● **BELLWAY:** Interim dividend 3p (same) for the half-year to Jan. 31, 1986. Turnover £26.85 million (£19.82 million). Profit before tax £1.32 million (£680,000). Earnings per share 4.7p (2.4p). The board reports that with turnover running at record levels the outlook is encouraging.

● **J F C LILLY:** Year to Jan. 31, 1986. Total dividend 3.52p (3.64p). Turnover £357.4 million (£301.29 million). Pretax profit £9.53 million (£7.49 million). Earnings per share 7.73p (7.4p).

● **DELTA GROUP:** Mr G H Wilson, the chairman, told the annual meeting that the group had acquired Investment Engineering for about £1.1 million. Based in Nottinghamshire, Investment Engineering produces tools for investment castings and plastic mouldings. Mr Wilson went on to say that the current year had started well for Delta.

● **ABERDEEN CONSTRUCTION:** Total dividend for 1985 3p (7.25p). Turnover £100 million (£94.15 million). Pretax profit £4.63 million (£4.85 million). Tax credit £616,000 (debit £2.1 million). Extraordinary credit £203,000 (nil).

● **CYANAMID HOLDINGS:** The company is to offer for subscription £30 million, 9 per cent notes, due 1991, in the international capital markets. The notes will be guaranteed by American Cyanamid and the issue price will be 100 per cent.

● **M M T CONCRETE:** Interim dividend 1.5p (1.2p), payable on July 9. Turnover for the half-year to Feb. 28, 1986, £374,000 (£712,000). Pretax profit £264,000 (£203,000). Earnings per share 7.5p (5.3p).

● **BEUTHE CYCLES:** 100% DUSTRIES: Sandtex is to be sold to AKZO, following a detailed review of Sandtex's future within the framework of BCI. Sandtex reported gross sales of about £20 million for 1985.

● **TRIEFUS:** Dividend 0.05p (same) for 1985, payable June 16. Turnover £22.5 million (£21.97 million). Pretax profit £793,000 (loss £214,000). Earnings per share 1.80p (loss 11.17p). Extraordinary items (net of tax): profit on sale of surplus properties £618,000 (£221,000); provision for rationalization and reorganization £600,000 (nil).

● **GLANFIELD LAWRENCE:** Clients of Anderson and Co have purchased from Gregory Securities 3.5 million shares (66.12 per cent) at 704p each. An unconditional offer at 704p will be made to the remaining holders. Anderson and Co is satisfied that funds are available. It is the intention of the new board to maintain the quote.

● **TONGAAT-HULETT:** Year to March 31, 1986. Turnover R1,850 million (£580 million), against R1,803.6 million. Pretax profit, R37.9 million (£72.8 million). Total dividend 12 cents (30 cents). Earnings per share 24.2 cents (60.3 cents).

● **FREDERICK COOPER:** The company has entered into a conditional agreement to purchase Henderson Stainless Steel, a private company. The price will be an issue of 598,000 ordinary shares, which have been conditionally placed on behalf of the vendors to realize £598,000. This transaction involves a former director of Cooper and is subject to shareholders' approval.

● **RAND MINES:** Half-year to March 31, 1986. Interim dividend 105 cents (85 cents). Pretax profit R156.2 million (£49 million), against R105 million. Turnover R395.4 million (£297.6 million). Earnings per share 624 cents (456 cents).

● **H C SLINGSBY:** Total dividend for 1985 4p (3.6p). Sales £5.75 million (£4.91 million). Pretax profit £296,000 (£264,000). Earnings per share 20.2p (24.7p).

● **MANDERS:** Mr G Norman, the chairman, told the annual meeting that trading had been much improved in the first quarter. Sales in the country were up by 7.5 per cent, while overseas sales had risen by 40 per cent.

● **BARR & WALLACE ARNOLD TRUST:** Total payment for 1985 7p (7p). Turnover £128.49 million (£120.46 million). Pretax profit £1 million (£1.5 million). Earnings per share 13.6p (18.5p).

● **SHORROCK:** The company has started the current year extremely well, with first-quarter sales at a record level. Mr Stanley Shorrocks, the chairman, told the annual meeting. Orders are now more than 50 per cent higher than at the end of last year.

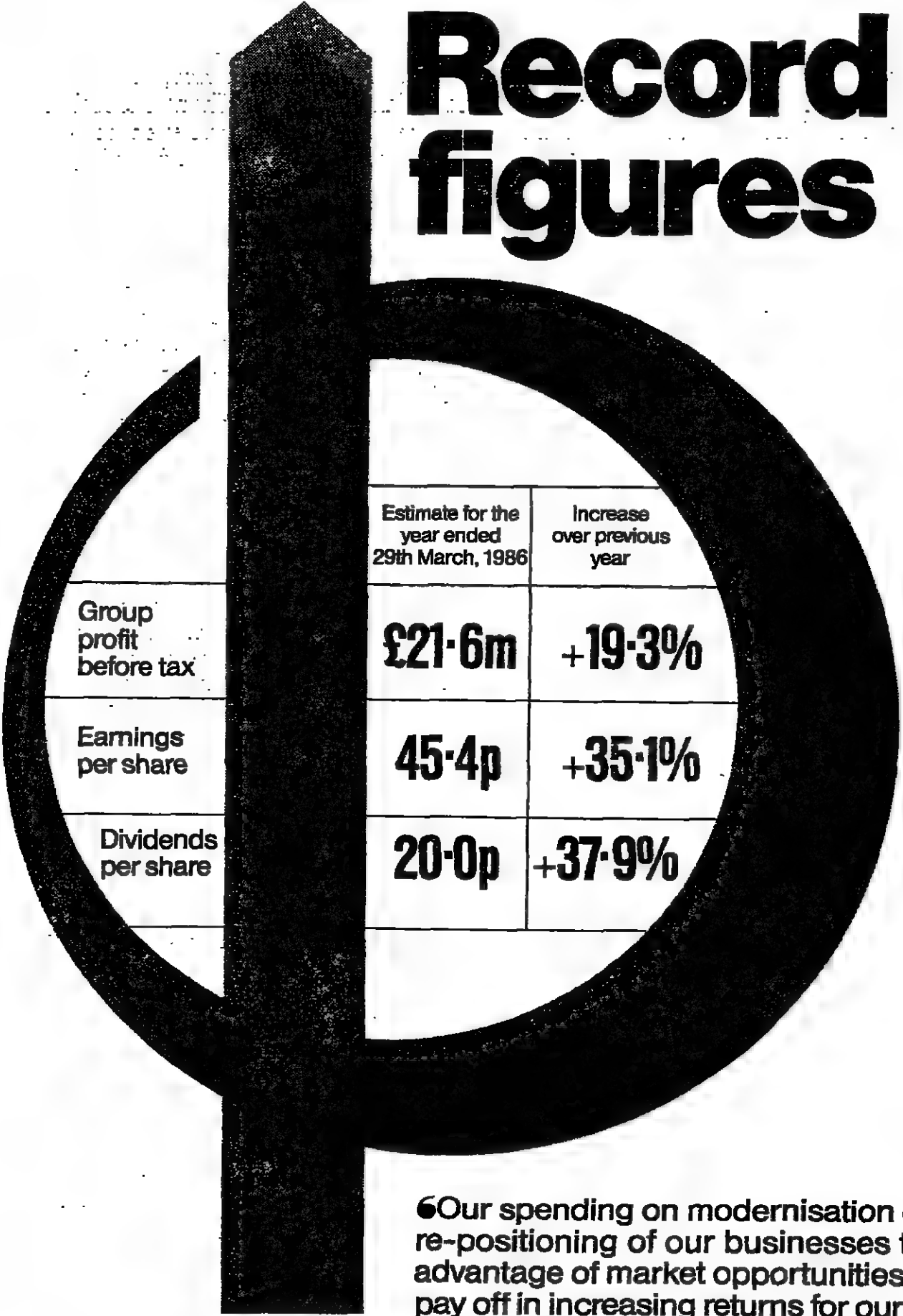
● **BRITISH MOHAIR HOLDINGS:** The company has acquired Sewing Machine Parts of Bradford, Yorkshire, for £475,000, satisfied by the issue of 374,016 ordinary shares. The book value of SMP's net assets is £266,908.

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Co-operative Bank 10.50%
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Lloyds Bank 10.50%
Nat Westminster 10.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland 10.50%
TSB 10.50%
Citibank NA 10.50%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

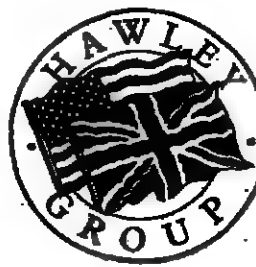
Record figures



Our spending on modernisation of plant and the re-positioning of our businesses to take advantage of market opportunities have begun to pay off in increasing returns for our shareholders.

—Peter Matthews
Chairman

Pegler-Hattersley plc



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Wednesday 30th April 12 noon

Birmingham

Brual Suite,
Albany Hotel,
Smallbrook Queensway,
Birmingham

Thursday 1st May 12 noon

London

Nine Kings Suite,
Royal Lancaster Hotel,
Lancaster Terrace,
London W12

(Immediately above Lancaster Gate tube station) Friday 2nd May 12 noon

These meetings are open to the public. If you would like a copy of the 1985 Report and Accounts, please apply to Hawley Group, 5 Hanover Square, London W1R 9HE.

rows as
allows
free-fall

The diamond market has turned the corner

the strength and resilience of the centralised selling system is underlined.



De Beers Extracts from Julian Ogilvie Thompson's Statement for 1985

1985 marked the turning point in the market for rough diamonds and underlined the strength and resilience of De Beers' centralised selling system. This was particularly gratifying in view of the problems experienced in other commodity stabilisation schemes. World retail sales of diamond jewellery attained yet another record, exceeding the 1984 figure by some three per cent. Geographically, sales were more evenly spread, the increase in the United States being less spectacular, and in the other industrialised countries more pronounced, than in 1984.

Cutting centre stocks down

The CSO continued its policy of only offering for sale those goods for which there was immediate demand. Stocks in the cutting centres have been brought down at last to reasonable operating levels, and manufacturers have been able to trade profitably in meeting the demand generated by the record retail jewellery sales. It follows that after this protracted and difficult period of destocking, the pipeline between the CSO and the ultimate consumer has contracted to the point where CSO sales should once again be more directly related to retail demand. Looking further ahead, the prospect is that the recent sharp fall in the oil price should bring about lower inflation and higher growth in the industrialised countries, and hence higher sales of diamond jewellery.

Sales trend continues

Certainly the past year has seen a progressive broadening of demand for rough into sizes and qualities that have not been offered by the CSO in recent years, with the result that CSO sales in the second half of the year were the highest since 1980. These trends have continued into the current year with demand for rough gem continuing at a high level during the first three sights and on 8th April the CSO announced an overall increase of 7.5 per cent in the price of rough gem diamonds with effect from the fourth sight in May.

Net current assets improved by R204 million, while long and medium-term borrowings and preference shares in issue by subsidiaries together fell by R12 million, giving an overall improvement in funding of R216 million. Had the conversion rate used in 1985 applied in 1984 as well, the improvement would have amounted to R532 million. Our borrowings are low in relation both to our overall facilities and to our total assets.

The value of investments and long-term loans outside the diamond industry increased by R2,193 million to R5,880 million, or 1.634 cents per share, and yielded income of R215 million compared with R183 million the previous year.

Industrial Division

Our Industrial Division had another satisfactory year, with profits in Dollar terms being marginally ahead of the 1984 figure though total sales fell just short of it. Carat turnover in natural diamond increased, but the reduction in sales value—caused largely by the slump in exploration drilling for minerals and oil—and the lower synthetic grit sales were not quite offset by noticeably improved sales of the newer polycrystalline diamond and other hard abrasive products.

New and improved techniques developed at the Diamond Research Laboratory were successfully introduced at the three synthetic manufacturing plants and resulted in a further reduction in direct costs, notwithstanding higher quality specifications. Continuing research and development have enabled us to

offer a more comprehensive range of diamond and cubic boron nitride composites than any other manufacturer, and several interesting opportunities lie ahead. Research into new uses for natural diamond grit has been especially active in the light of the increased quantities that will be available now that the Argyle mine, a major producer of boart and drilling stones, is coming into full production.

Production from the De Beers mines and Debswana, in which De Beers has an equal partnership with the Government of Botswana, fell slightly by 85,000 carats to 23,251,000 carats.

The report of a commission, appointed in 1982 to inquire into alleged irregularities and misapplication of property in representative authorities and the central authority of South West Africa/Namibia, known as the Thirion Commission, was published on 7th March 1986, by the Transitional Government of National Unity in Windhoek. Among the Commissioner's findings CDM, without having given evidence or been called upon to do so, is said to have breached the provisions of its mining title, namely the Halbscheid Agreement, which requires that mining should be carried on "satisfactorily to the Administration and not with a view to

exhausting the superficial and more valuable deposits to the detriment of the low grade deposits". At no stage has there been any suggestion from the Administration that CDM was not carrying on mining satisfactorily and CDM is confident that it has not breached any of its obligations and that its mining practices have not been detrimental to the State. On the contrary, by the introduction of innovative and cost-effective techniques CDM has rendered hitherto unpayable ground payable, and thus progressively extended the life of the mine. On current projections, only about two per cent of the estimated original carat inventory of the mining area will be left behind at the end of the life of the mine. Of this, about half is in ground which is inaccessible using current mining techniques. In the meantime, prospecting continues in the hope of identifying new reserves. Naturally, within the limits of production technology, CDM has always followed a policy of responding to market conditions, so that when demand is high more diamonds are produced and when the market is in recession, as it has been over the last five years, the rate of production is lowered. Indeed, since 1981, a number of production facilities at CDM have remained

temporarily closed without affecting CDM's share of sales. These facts are hardly compatible with a policy of excessive depletion of CDM's reserves. As in the past, CDM fully intends to continue operating within its rights and obligations, in consultation with the authorities and in accordance with the law.

Unified wage structure

Industrial relations on our various operations have been satisfactory, due in part at least to the Company's long-standing adherence to a unified wage structure and continuing implementation of merit-based manning policies, supported by extensive training and development programmes for employees at all levels. The removal of statutory job reservation in the mining industry in South Africa is now a matter of great urgency, and intensive discussions between the industry, the unions and the Government are at last taking place. It is crucial that the outcome should be fair and should provide equal opportunity to all.

Committed to change

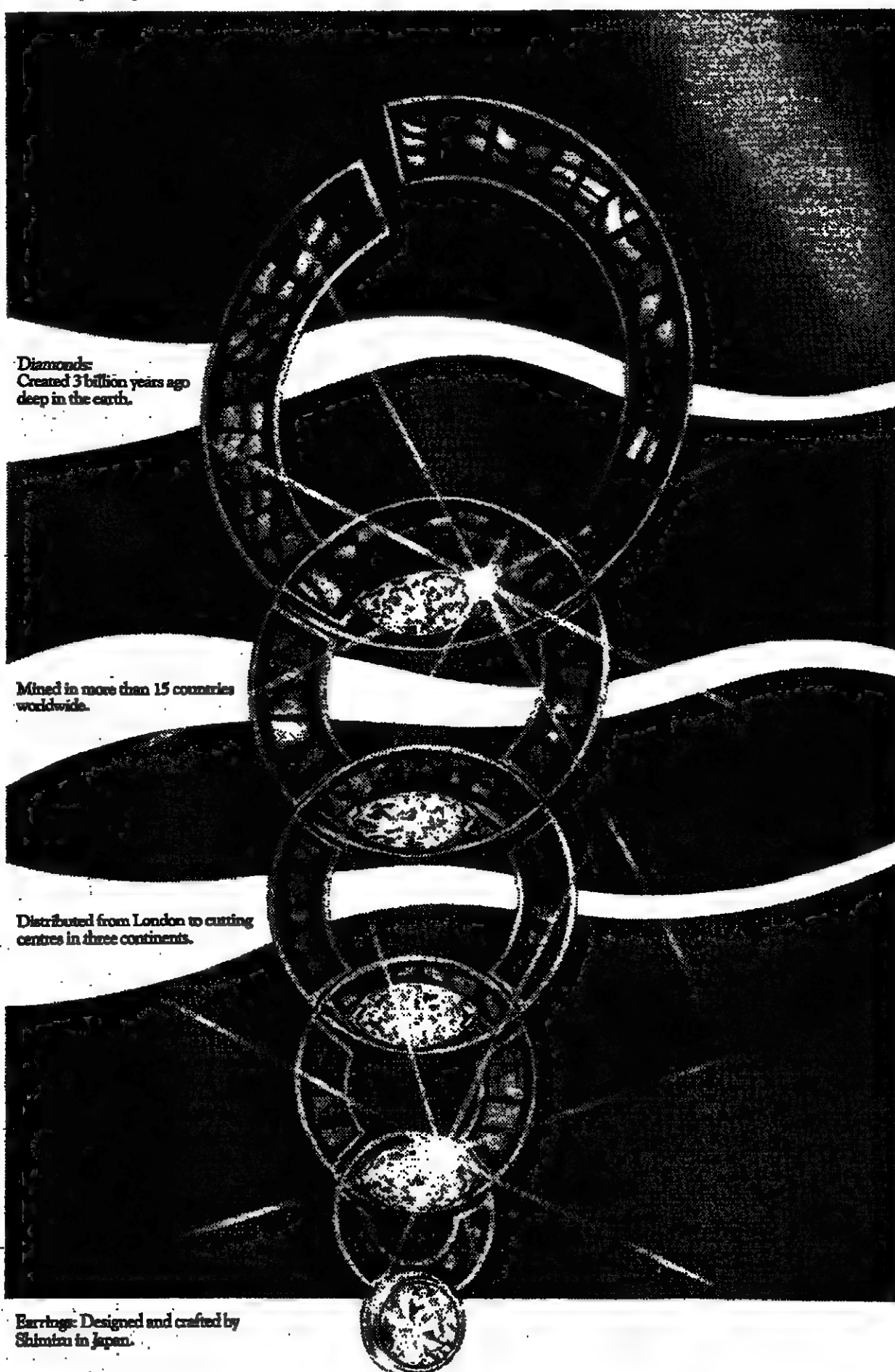
South Africa has been through a particularly difficult year. The need to abolish apartheid in all its forms and create a socio-political dispensation that gives fair and equal opportunity to all is now more widely recognised than ever before. Your Company has long been in the forefront of those committed to such changes and it is encouraging that the Government has announced many substantial reforms. Several have been implemented and the remainder are expected to receive legislative approval during the present session; it is hoped that further initiatives will soon follow. We shall continue to do all we can to accelerate the process of evolutionary change.

Our Deputy Chairman, Mr Nicholas Oppenheimer, has succeeded Sir Philip Oppenheimer as Chairman of the CSO. Sir Philip filled that role with great distinction for 30 years and De Beers and, indeed, the whole diamond industry is deeply indebted to him. Fortunately, we shall still benefit from Sir Philip's experience and wisdom for he will continue to be a member of our board and to play a leading role in certain key aspects of the CSO's activities.

Over the past year I have been able to visit each of our main operating centres and have been impressed everywhere by the loyalty, enthusiasm and devotion of De Beers' employees. Their efforts over this decade in containing costs and yet maintaining productivity have been of great importance in helping us to come through a period that has been the most difficult in De Beers' history since the 1930s. The board and I are extremely grateful to all our people for these achievements.

The full Chairman's Statement is contained in the Annual Report of the Company for the year ended 31st December 1985 which was posted to registered Shareholders on 1st May 1986.

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De Beers

<p>AT LAST!</p> <p>A man can afford</p> <p>The greetings card, small fancy goods in Central Midlands, have opened for further stock consolidation at low cost; salable items attractively priced and packaged.</p> <p>All replies treated in strict confidence.</p> <p>Reply to BOX FBO :</p> <p>C/O The Times, P O Box 494, Virginia Street, London E1.</p> <p>CAN YOU HELP?</p>	<p>EXPERIENCED WELL ESTABLISHED MOBILE WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTOR</p> <p>Rise greetings cards, small fancy goods in Central Midlands, have opened for further stock consolidation at low cost; salable items attractively priced and packaged.</p> <p>All replies treated in strict confidence.</p> <p>Reply to BOX FBO :</p> <p>C/O The Times, P O Box 494, Virginia Street, London E1.</p> <p>CAN YOU HELP?</p>	<p>PALL MALL No Premium</p> <p>Prestige firm, carpeted showroom offices, all staff sales with phone & T.V. home area. Short/long term, part time facilities.</p> <p>From £75 p.w.</p>	<p>LICENSED TRADE</p> <p>Eat agents throughout UK for newly patented product, C&S, with the NCB Boost your earnings by up to £300 p.w. Telephone 0682 7225</p>	<p>(0742) 738011</p> <p>GLOUCESTER</p> <p>FOREST OF DEAN, Gloucester. Large fully modern, six town house nearing completion. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, bath room, dining hall, lounge, terrace and garden, set to be developed as a private residence. Tel 0542 55457</p> <p>SPAIN</p>	<p>A French energy management service company yesterday took control of Associated Heat Services, the heating plant operator set up by the National Coal Board in 1966, 90 minutes after launching a bid valuing the company at \$39.2 million.</p> <p>After announcing the agreed 49% per share offer, Compagnie Generale de Chauffage immediately went into the market and bought</p>	<p>dend of 10p and there will be a loan note alternative.</p> <p>The company, whose chairman is Lord Ezra the former coal board chairman, said last week that it was in negotiations about a takeover and the shares had since jumped from 333p to 450p. Yesterday they gained 38p to 488p.</p> <p>CGC was a founder shareholder of AHS, with the NCB and Ocean Transport & Trading, and has been the</p>	<p>By Teresa Poole</p> <p>acceptance of the ordinary share offer would lead to an 80 per cent reduction in income.</p> <p>With FH Tomkins' share price at 328p yesterday, the all-share offer is worth 609p for every Pegler share.</p> <p>The cash offer is 529.3p. Pegler said that the cash offer represented only 11.7 times 1985-6 earnings, a substantial discount to the sector.</p> <p>The defence document also took issue with Tomkins'</p>
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3	200	4
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8	450	9
9	500	10
10	1350	38

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Year	% Increase
1980	10
1981	20
1982	30

[illegible]

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Barlow Rand	Industrial A-D	
2	BIS	Industrial E-K	
3	Hevin (I)	Industrial E-K	
4	Forward Tech	Electronics	
5	VG Investments	Electronics	
6	Amersham	Chemicals, Plastics	
7	Sutcliffe Spinning	Chemicals, Plastics	
8	Bulmer (RPI)	Breweries	
9	Barnes	Stores	
10	Midland Trust	Banking, Finance	
11	Liverpool (Water)	Building, Roads	
12	Chelmer (I)	Stores	
13	Elliot (I)	Industrial E-K	
14	Desfontaine	Industrial A-D	
15	Cambridge Elec	Electronics	
16	Western Selection	Electronics	
17	Brathwaite Grp	Industrial A-D	
18	Chiswick Hunt	Industrial A-D	
19	Valor	Industrial S-Z	
20	Whitman Reeve	Industrial S-Z	
21	Avon Rubber	Industrial A-D	
22	Kalamazoo	Industrial E-K	
23	Richardson Weir	Industrial L-R	
24	Audio Fidelity	Electronics	
25	Standard Fireworks	Industrial S-Z	
26	Brannan	Industrial A-D	
27	Life-care	Industrial L-R	
28	Grosvener	Electronics	
29	Ladbroke	Hotels, Catering	
30	Dobson Park	Industrial A-D	
31	Cadent	Chemicals, Plastics	
32	Wolsey	Industrial S-Z	
33	Reynolds Hides	Chemicals, Plastics	
34	Cowan De Groot	Industrial A-D	
35	Fincham	Industrial E-K	
36	British Mill	Industrial A-D	
37	Seaton (James) A	Drugs, Stores	
38	Electronic Rentals	Electronics	
39	Richard (Lanc)	Industrial L-R	
40	Hog Robinson	Insurance	
41	Black's Ltd	Drugs, Stores	
42	Riley Leisure	Leisure	
43	Benford Concrete	Building, Roads	
44	RHP	Industrial L-R	

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £3,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1986	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Gain or Loss
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SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1986	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Gain or Loss
1	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
2	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
3	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
4	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
5	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
6	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
7	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
8	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
9	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
10	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
11	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
12	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
13	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
14	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
15	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
16	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
17	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
18	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
19	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
20	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
21	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
22	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
23	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
24	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
25	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
26	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
27	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
28	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
29	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
30	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
31	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
32	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
33	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
34	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
35	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
36	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
37	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
38	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
39	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
40	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
41	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
42	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
43	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
44	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
45	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
46	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
47	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
48	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
49	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
50	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
51	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
52	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
53	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
54	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
55	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
56	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
57	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
58	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
59	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
60	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
61	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
62	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
63	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
64	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
65	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
66	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
67	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
68	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
69	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
70	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
71	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
72	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
73	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
74	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
75	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
76	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
77	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
78	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
79	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
80	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
81	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
82	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
83	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
84	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
85	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
86	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
87	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
88	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
89	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
90	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
91	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
92	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
93	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
94	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
95	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
96	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
97	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
98	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
99	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
100	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1986	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%	Gain or Loss
1	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
2	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
3	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
4	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
5	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
6	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
7	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
8	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
9	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
10	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
11	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
12	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
13	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
14	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
15	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
16	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
17	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
18	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
19	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
20	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
21	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
22	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
23	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
24	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
25	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
26	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
27	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
28	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
29	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
30	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
31	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
32	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
33	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
34	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
35	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
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43	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
44	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
45	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
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48	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
49	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
50	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
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77	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
78	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
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81	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
82	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
83	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
84	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
85	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
86	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
87	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
88	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
89	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
90	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
91	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
92	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
93	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
94	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
95	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
96	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
97	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
98	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
99	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	
100	100	95	100	95	-5	-5	

Shifting the tax burden is vital for job creation

By Emile Woolf

With the next election possibly only a year away, government supporters are getting increasingly jittery about Mrs Thatcher's lack of success in reducing unemployment.

Credit is due to the Conservatives for their achievements in some aspects of economic policy but there is an open admission of frustration in high places at the lack of progress in dealing with the shortage of jobs.

Viewing the recent book by Sir Alan Walters, Mrs Thatcher's economic adviser, Professor Alan Budd of the London Business School, wrote: "Alan Walters admits that he is baffled. He argues that high real wages are the main cause of unemployment but cannot understand why they remain so high, and indeed continue to rise."

"It is the persistence of high unemployment which must leave the verdict on Conservative economic policy open. Alan Walters suggests that forecasts of 3 million or more unemployed stretching into an indefinite future may be too pessimistic. It would be nice to agree with him."

The answer to Sir Alan's conundrum is quite simple: aspects of the unemployment problem, possibly crucial to its resolution, are being unwittingly overlooked or willfully ignored.

Solutions arrived at in the past, for example by Keynes, would be inappropriate now because of the lack of circumstantial similarity between the causes of unemployment in the twenties and thirties and those which would apply today.

What new feature, therefore, has entered the finely balanced British economic equation in recent years to contribute to the steady rise in unemployment, and yet is not acknowledged to be thus closely connected?

The answer must lie in the fiscal realm, since in the post-war years taxation has, in real terms, expanded in size — and effect — out of all recognition to meet the complementary growth in government spending.

Radical reappraisal of the tax system is acknowledged to be overdue. Intriguingly, much of this radical thrust is coming from the growing ranks of those returning to the classical economists for answers.

This is perhaps reflected in the growing number of pre-Budget submissions to the Chancellor which, like that of the CBI this year, cite the fundamental Canons of Taxation, postulated more than 200 years ago by Adam Smith in his *Wealth of Nations*, as

TABLE 1

Comparative Tax Yields 1985/86 Forecasts* (£ billion)	
Corporation tax on company profits	10.1
Capital gains and capital transfer taxes	1.9
Customs & Excise — VAT	18.3
— Other	18.0
Motor vehicle taxes	2.5
Petroleum Revenue tax (forecast prior to fall in oil prices)	8.2
Local authority rates	13.6
Income tax	35.2
NI (employers' & employees')	2.48

*N.B. More than 70 per cent of income tax and NI is raised through the PAYE system. Source: Financial Statement and Budget Report 1985-86, HM Treasury.

TABLE 2

Employment Taxes 1986/87 (at basic rates)	
"Gross" pay	£ 1.52
Deduct:	
PAYE income tax (29%)	0.47
Employee's NI (9%)	0.15
	£ 0.62
Take-home pay	£ 1.00
Employer's NI (10.45%)	0.17
Employment taxes	0.78

worthy of fresh consideration.

The first of Smith's necessary broad postulates concerns what would today refer to as "taxable capacity", declaring that the subjects of every state ought to contribute towards the support of government "as nearly as possible in proportion to their respective abilities."

Adam Smith first described in graphic terms the effect of taxing wages, which is to shift the tax to the employer. He cites the example of a worker earning a basic wage of £100 before the introduction of a 20 per cent tax.

His wages must now rise to £125 to leave him with the same disposable income (i.e. net of tax) as he previously enjoyed. Even then, however, his purchasing power in real terms will suffer when he is faced with the higher prices necessarily caused by the tax shift.

Smith's main point was that taxes on wages do not stick. They are in effect a tax on the employer, which must either be passed on in prices (subject to market elasticity) or absorbed by the business, reducing profits.

Our own pay-as-you-earn system reflects this principle precisely in that the law makes no pretence about where responsibility for the tax lies. It is in this context that being reminded of Adam Smith's emphasis on taxable capacity is so timely. The PAYE system provided the Chancellor with his largest single source of revenue, yet its method of assessment, being based on notional gross pay of employees, has no regard to the capacity of respective employers to bear it.

A garage mechanic in a small motor repair business and a banking clerk in the City of London may earn the same gross wage. Yet there is obviously a vast discrepancy in the capacities of their respective employers to bear the related employment taxes.

After all, the tax must be found from the added value they generate. Yet the annual added value per head of bank employees is about £50,000 compared with about £12,000 in a marginally viable repair shop.

It is this "marginal" economic activity that provides the key to creating jobs — a fact that Mrs Thatcher, in her championing of the small business man should be more attuned to.

The business on the margin of viability is that which generates sufficient capacity (added value) to satisfy employees' wage expectations; provides its owner with the minimum return compatible with the effort and risk implicit in running it; services its borrowings; and is capable of replacing worn out assets (depreciation).

Nothing is left for taxation, and any such impost serves to render its operations even more precarious. This is no doubt why we find that many marginal enterprises are kept afloat by a subsidy just sufficient to fund their employment taxes.

Some may argue that the rate of employment taxes, although failing to reflect the ability of respective employers to bear it, is not so burdensome that it positively discourages employment.

This mistaken view arises because such taxes are deceptively expressed as a percentage of gross pay. A more objective reflection of their impact is presented in Table 2, which shows the basic rate of employment taxes expressed in relation to net pay.

The table highlights the fact that the present system of employment taxes disregards the employer's taxable capacity entirely in requiring, even after the latest Budget's reduction, 79p to be paid to the Revenue for every £1 of wages taken home once personal and other allowances have been used up, irrespective of the added value generated from that employment.

This operates from the moment the business takes on its first employee. Can a connection with unemployment be denied?

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, in his latest Budget speech, correctly identified "labour costs" as a cause of unemployment, but did so to admonish employers for contributing to wage inflation.

Thirty years ago an employer of the father in a family with

two children would not have been concerned with employment taxes at all until the employee's pay rose to more than the national average; and even then the rate was only 9p in the pound.

The standard rate of income tax then (33p in the pound) became effective only when wages reached 1.8 times the national average (equivalent to approximately £340 per week today).

Britain has the highest starting rate of income tax in the world with the exception of Australia; and at the same time these taxes become payable at a wage level which is 20 per cent below the official poverty line — very much lower than the starting point for employment taxes in most other advanced industrial countries.

So far as the Chancellor's stated overriding aim of fiscal neutrality is concerned, he can do no better than read the report of the House of Commons Select Committee on Energy, published when considering the most appropriate

Income tax starts at wages 20% below poverty line

tax regime for North Sea Oil production.

The essence of its recommendations could be cited as the cornerstone of any programme of tax reform, anywhere, since it highlights the need to protect marginal businesses and to encourage the emergence of new ones which, but for the tax system, would be economically viable.

Such reform must recognize that all employment taxes are ultimately borne by the employer, whatever the illusion of their incidence, and differential added value created by that employment must be taken into account if Adam Smith's principle of taxable capacity is to be accorded due recognition today.

The author is a partner in Kingston Smith, chartered accountants.

*Britain's Economic Renaissance: Margaret Thatcher's Reforms, 1979-85, OUP, £19.50.

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Lifeline cover, we'd be forced to trim our support services to more ordinary levels.

True, we'd be able to offer you a cheaper truck. But it would probably cost you more to run. It certainly wouldn't last as long. And when the time comes to sell, the return on your initial investment wouldn't be so healthy.

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Norwich Union Chairman, Michael G Falcon, CBE, DL, reports

Progress and Achievement

"The public's heightened interest in the whole insurance market and the confidence of intermediaries in our own business philosophy have contributed greatly to strong growth"

Norwich Union Life

It is pleasing to report that by 1985 our share of the traditional ordinary business and self-employed market in the UK had grown by almost 50% since 1982.

Our new UK annual premiums increased by 10% to £90 million while single premiums reached £325 million — up by a third on 1984.

Our endowment policies demonstrated their competitiveness against other forms of savings, even without the advantage of tax relief.

Mortgage-related business rallied well towards the end of 1985 and has started 1986 very strongly.

Self-employed pensions business doubled during the year.

The high level of new business is all the more encouraging because it was achieved despite our refusal to follow competitors who are using projections of future bonuses on bases which we believe to be unrealistic and misleading.

On a 25-year Norwich Union policy maturing today, more than two-thirds of the payout comes from sum insured and vested bonuses while some of our competitors' policyholders face the uncertainty of over half their expected payouts coming from a removable terminal bonus.

A very small proportion of our policyholders surrender their policies each year, but they can be secure in the knowledge that our surrender values

are among the highest in the market, very much supporting the Insurance Ombudsman's recommendation in his 1985 Report that "all surrender value calculations should be towards the high end of the scale..."

Underlying such strength and confidence is an investment philosophy and strategy which is markedly different from that of our competitors. With large proportions of our funds invested over many years in ordinary shares and property, we are able to earn consistently higher returns than are available to those who have concentrated on fixed interest securities.

During 1985 the Life Society in the UK invested £494 million of which three-quarters went into shares and real estate. The £185 million invested in property in 1985 secured a starting yield of over 7%.

We are committed to increasing market activity in the years ahead, and our efforts, assisted by the latest technology, will be underpinned by our deeply-held belief in the independent intermediary through whom we sell our business.

	1985	1984
Worldwide Total Premiums	£ 855m	£ 739m
New Premiums	£ 480m	£ 389m
Net Assets	£ 7970m	£ 6869m



Norwich Union Fire

Premium income in the UK forged ahead by some 24% in 1985. This reflected our ability to negotiate more satisfactory premium rates together with a high level of business renewed. A pleasing feature of 1985 has been the return of policyholders who left us for a short-term price advantage and now recognise our values of consistency and dependability.

Given a continuation of the realism that appears now to be established, our prospects for sound growth are very good. Commercial insurances finished the year with a much improved result.

Our UK motor premiums reached over £200 million for the first time although with a lower insurance profit. The increase in frequency of motoring accidents continued through 1985 and the fact that nearly one in three drivers killed has a blood/alcohol content above the legal limit gives cause for concern.

The effect of home insurance rating changes, both upward and downward, will not be fully apparent until 1986 but in 1985 a loss was made, even after the allocation of investment income.

The world-wide pre-tax profit at nearly £30 million is up 43% (excluding the re-organisation costs in 1984).

An increased dividend to the Life Society again resulted in a positive return to our life policyholders. In stark contrast, many of our competitors continue to provide no dividend from their general business results and depend heavily on contributions from life fund surpluses, and profits from past years.

Consolidated Results

	Furnish	Underwriting loss	Contributable income	Insurance result	
				1985	1984
United Kingdom	£371.5m	£40.6m	£46.7m	£6.1m	£3.8m
Overseas	64.7	11.6	10.0	(1.6)	(1.3)
Life and accident	28.5	0.3	2.7	2.4	(2.7)
	464.7	52.5	58.4	6.9	(0.2)
Less: interest on associated companies	65.7	8.3	8.3	—	(1.2)
Net result after tax	339.0	44.2	51.1	6.9	1.0
Insurance result				£8.9m	£1.0m
Expenses not charged to other accounts				1.8	2.4
Other investment income				23.9	20.8
Share of profits of overseas associated companies				0.7	1.3
				29.7	20.7
Percentage costs				—	2.0
Profit before taxation				29.7	18.7
Taxation and other charges				9.4	4.8
Profit after taxation				20.3	14.1
Dividend				13.7	13.0

*See separate pages 131-4 (1984) 130-9 (1985)

as
lows
-fall

RUGBY UNION

Tour robs Bath of eight top players

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

Bath, the John Player Special Cup holders for three years running, go into the final match of the season against Gloucester tomorrow without eight of their top players due to tour Italy in England B next week. The Bath team assembles tomorrow and on Monday.

A Gloucester victory at the Recreation Ground would leave the West merit table and leading Bath, Plymouth Albion and Bristol as the division's four qualifiers for the third round of next season's cup. Nevertheless, Bath are still able to field six internationals.

Elsewhere, the divisional matches leave Northampton without a place in the John Player for the first time. They occupy eighth position in the Midlands table, not high enough to reach the first round cup places which go to Birmingham and Rugby.

The gulf between the top four Midlands clubs - Leicester, Moseley, Coventry and Nottingham - and the bottom five is a sad one, considering the traditions of such as Bedford and Northampton. Nottingham should maintain their place as runners-up in the John Smith's merit table A, even if they lose to Bristol at Beeston tomorrow. Since they send a squad to the Midlands, that is a distinct possibility, that is a pleasant to reflect upon a system in which all play all, on fixed Saturdays, in a logical sequence of events which will be the case if the proposed English club championship goes ahead in 1987.

France will take a team including five senior internationals to Leningrad when they play the Soviet Union next Thursday. The game had originally been scheduled for Kiev, though the alteration had been made before the Chernobyl disaster.

Three members of the team, Andrew the Nines centre, Picard, Montford lock, and Orso, the lock from Nice, are among the squad of 30 whom France will take on tour to Argentina, Australia and New Zealand between May 28 and June 30.

FOOTBALL
Premature success by Enfield
Non-League football by Nicholas Harling
Enfield's second Gola League triumph has possibly come a year too early for the ambitious North London club who were relying on the Football League re-organization taking effect as the new season begins.

Under the new structure coming into operation the season after next, Enfield, as the Gola League winners and the club nominated by its fellow members, would have been automatically elected.

Should any of the Football League's bottom four fail to gain re-election at next month's annual meeting, Enfield might still get in, but bearing in mind the clubs involved, that is unlikely. On the previous occasion Enfield took the Gola (then the Alliance League) title in 1982-83, they withdrew their application to join the Football League. "This time we are all geared up on and off the pitch," Alan Richards, Enfield's secretary, said yesterday.

A goal midway through the first half of Tuesday's game against last season's champions, Westons, by the prolific Charlie Richards, gave Enfield a 1-0 win and the title.

RACING: CECIL AND CAUTHEN FOR NEWMARKET DOUBLE

Set fair for Slip Anchor

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Slip Anchor, last year's Derby winner, is having his first race as a four-year-old in the General Atkinson Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket today. He will be ridden as usual by Steve Cauthen, who rode a beautifully judged race in this event 12 months ago when he made virtually all the running on Kirmann.

American jockeys are renowned for their timing as they have to do so much work against the clock in their homeland. Today our champion jockey will certainly need to be on his guard not just because he has only two opponents, but also Slip Anchor has been going very freely in his work at home.

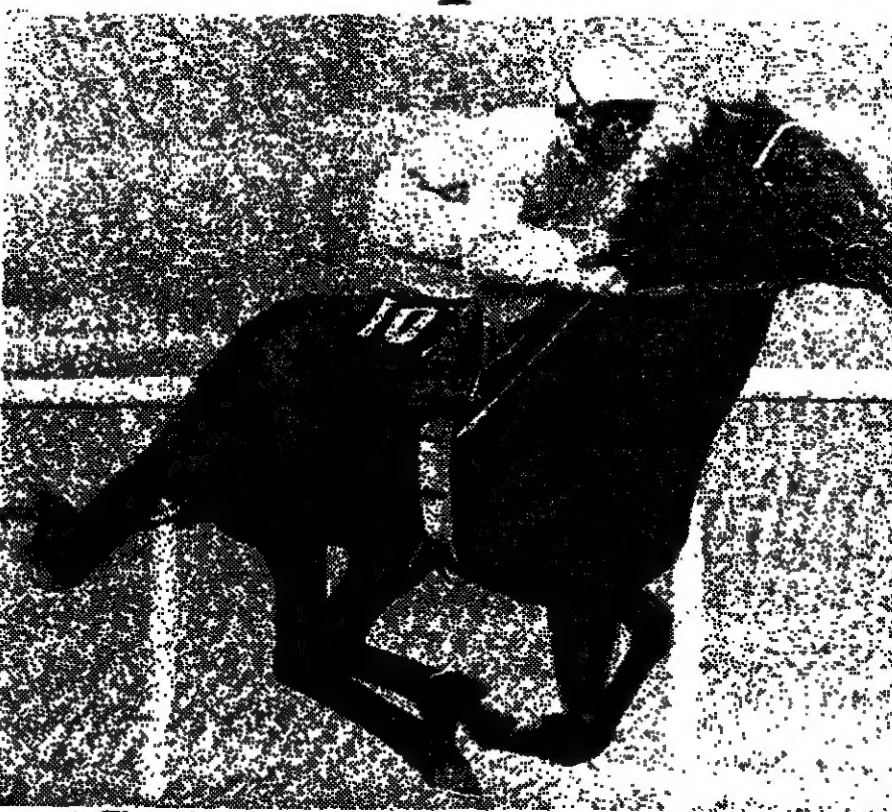
An added factor is that his fellow jockeys are now aware of his trail-blazing tactics, which proved so effective in the Derby and at both the Lingfield and Newmarket before that. Indeed, it was interesting that Cauthen was not given nearly so much rope when Slip Anchor eventually ran again in the Autumn at Kempton and Newmarket, and on each occasion he was found wanting and beaten into second place.

Today, he must give Slip to his two rivals, each of whom have had a run this Spring and both are capable of making admirers of Slip Anchor's sweat, Piantardine, if he were to run as well as he did in the St. Leger at Doncaster where he was beaten only three-quarters of a length by Oh So Sharp. Reindeer Wave, if he were to repeat his form of last July when he ran the redoubtable Strawberry Road to a neck in the Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud.

While neither cut much ice first time out this season it is only fair to expect them to have come on with the race. Yet taken overall it will be disappointing if Slip Anchor is beaten.

Earlier in the day Cauthen will be on his younger stable companion Verd-Antique in the only decent maiden in the field. Hawarden finished a highly creditable fourth behind Armada in the Wood Pinton Stakes while Hello Ernani so nearly won the Italian 2,000 Guineas in a blanket finish.

Walter Swinburn is another jockey with doubly good prospects this afternoon. He can begin by winning the EBF Woburn Maiden Stakes on Naturally Fresh, who looked



Slip Anchor, who has only two rivals for today's Jockey Club Stakes

so desperately unlucky not to win first time out here during the Craven meeting.

Later Swinburn will be on Kabylla in the Charles Heidsieck Champagne Handicap. Here the handicapper might have erred in giving her so little weight. Admittedly, he had only her solitary victory at Leicester last Autumn to work on, but he did not have much more evidence on which to base his assessment of Something Casual, Twice Bold and Dancing Eagle and they have all been set to give my selection weight.

Ray Cochrane can sustain his excellent start to the season by winning the Arlington Stakes on Mister Majestic, who already has a commendable performance over the course and distance to his credit.

Later in the day Cochrane will be reunited with his old friend Luas Bid in the Ely Handicap. But following that bitterly disappointing performance in the Free Handicap I much prefer Major Jack, who finished with such gusto to win a similar race during the Craven meeting.

Finally, I can pass on a tip that the fitting of blinkers on Glacier Lass is expected to have the desired effect in the Bow Fell Maiden Fillies Stakes at Carlisle although I note with some trepidation that Ian Balding has decided to send the Queen's filly Northern Meeting there on a similar mission.

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CARLISLE

Draw: 57-61, high numbers best
Going: good to soft

- 2.15 BFF HIGH STILE MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (2-y-o: £230; 5f) (10 runners)
1 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

Carlisle selections

By Mandarin
2.15 Shades Of Night, 2.45 Chummy's Pet, 3.15 Steve Lady, 3.45 Glacier Lass, 4.15 Elegant Bill, 4.45 Mubarnas.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent
2.15 Shades Of Night, 2.45 Chummy's Pet, 3.15 Steve Lady, 4.15 Tara, 4.45 Say Something, Michael Seely's selection: 4.15 Elegant Bill.

2.45 BRANDRETH CLAIMING STAKES (3-y-o: £250; 5f) (13)

- 1 02 CHUMMY'S PET N Chummy 8-0
2 01 LILLY WHITE N H. Seely 9-0
3 03 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
4 04 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
5 05 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
6 06 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
7 07 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
8 08 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
9 09 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
10 10 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
11 11 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
12 12 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
13 13 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0

3.15 GRASSMERE HANDICAP (£1,962; 6f) (18)

- 1 01 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
2 02 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
3 03 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
4 04 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
5 05 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
6 06 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
7 07 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
8 08 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
9 09 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
10 10 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
11 11 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
12 12 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
13 13 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
14 14 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
15 15 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
16 16 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
17 17 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
18 18 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0

PLUMPTON

Going: good to firm (chase course), good (hurdles)

2.0 PEASE POTAGE NOVICES HURDLE (£786; 2m) (18 runners)

- 1 01 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
2 02 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
3 03 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
4 04 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
5 05 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
6 06 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
7 07 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
8 08 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
9 09 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
10 10 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
11 11 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
12 12 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
13 13 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
14 14 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
15 15 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
16 16 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
17 17 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11
18 18 BENTY BEATH (J) 8-11

Plumpton selections

By Mandarin
2.0 Boom Tally, 2.30 Choice Of Critics, 3.0 Inspired, 3.30 The Royal Comrie, 4.0 Man O' Magic, 4.30 Turfleton, 5.0 All Intent.

2.30 HAYWARDS HEATH HANDICAP CHASE (£2,250; 3m 1f) (9)

- 1 01 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
2 02 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
3 03 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
4 04 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
5 05 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
6 06 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
7 07 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
8 08 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
9 09 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0

3.0 MAY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£787; 2m) (13)

- 1 01 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
2 02 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
3 03 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
4 04 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
5 05 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
6 06 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
7 07 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
8 08 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
9 09 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
10 10 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
11 11 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
12 12 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
13 13 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0

3.30 ALFRED MAIDEN HOMES MAIDEN CHASE (£2,250; 2m) (15)

- 1 01 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
2 02 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
3 03 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
4 04 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
5 05 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
6 06 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
7 07 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
8 08 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
9 09 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
10 10 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
11 11 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
12 12 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
13 13 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
14 14 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0
15 15 TOWN ME NOT N H. Seely 8-0

TAUNTON

Going: good
5.45 MAY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£777; 2m 1f) (16 runners)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
11 11 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
15 15 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
16 16 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

6.15 MOTORWAY SELLING HURDLE (£486; 2m 1f) (16)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
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12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
15 15 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
16 16 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

6.45 PETER BLACKBURN MEMORIAL TROPHY (novice chase: £2,243; 2m 3f) (14)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
11 11 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

7.15 WEDMORE HANDICAP CHASE (£1,850; 3m 1f) (16)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
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11 11 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
15 15 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
16 16 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

3.45 BOW FELL MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES (3-y-o: £1,034; 1m 1f 80yds) (16)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
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10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
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12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
15 15 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
16 16 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

4.15 SCAFFELL HANDICAP (3-y-o: £1,781; 1m 1f 80yds) (10)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

4.45 GREAT GABLE STAKES (3-y-o: £1,781; 1m 4f) (20)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
11 11 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
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13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
15 15 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
16 16 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
17 17 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
18 18 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
19 19 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
20 20 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

Ladbrokes made yesterday's 1,000 Guineas winner, Midway Lady, 4-1 favourite for the Oaks at Epsom. Maysoon, the Guineas runner-up, is 8-1, with 10-1 Asteroid Field, and 12-1 Gedsed, who won the Pretty Polly Stakes at Newmarket yesterday.

The same firm make Allez Milord, who landed Newmarket's May Stakes, a 10-1 shot for the Derby.

4.0 AMATEUR RIDERS ASSOCIATION HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £1,557; 2m 4f) (20)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
11 11 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
15 15 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
16 16 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
17 17 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
18 18 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
19 19 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
20 20 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

4.30 MOUNT HARRY NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (£1,254; 2m 4f) (14)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
11 11 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

5.0 BOURNE LEISURE GROUP NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (555; 2m) (20)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
11 11 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
15 15 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
16 16 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
17 17 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
18 18 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
19 19 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
20 20 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

5.45 MAY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£777; 2m 1f) (16 runners)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
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7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
11 11 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
15 15 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
16 16 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

6.15 MOTORWAY SELLING HURDLE (£486; 2m 1f) (16)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
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8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
9 09 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
10 10 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
11 11 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
15 15 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
16 16 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

6.45 PETER BLACKBURN MEMORIAL TROPHY (novice chase: £2,243; 2m 3f) (14)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
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8 08 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
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11 11 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
12 12 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
13 13 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
14 14 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11

7.15 WEDMORE HANDICAP CHASE (£1,850; 3m 1f) (16)

- 1 01 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
2 02 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
3 03 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
4 04 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
5 05 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
6 06 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
7 07 BANTON MOORE (J) 8-11
8 08 BANTON MOORE (

